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MEMOIRS

OF

FREDERICA SOPHIA WILHELMINA,

PRINCESS ROYAL OF PRUSSIA,

MARGRAVINE OF BAREITH,

SISTER OF FREDERIC THE GREAT.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

MARGRAVINE DE BAREITH.

THE year 1732 introduced a new epoch. I had for some time past suffered much indisposition, the cause of which I attributed to the continual agitation of a mind oppressed by adversities. I wished to attend to my devotions, and went to church, but fainted during the service, and remained insensible for some hours. On my recovery I found myself in bed surrounded by a crowd of persons who had run to my assistance, and among the rest the queen. The physician decided that I was breeding, on which subject the company amused themselves greatly; but I paid no attention to any thing that they said to me---I suffered too much. I had several faintings during that day, which prevented my rising. The queen sent me word the next morning that she would pay me a visit in the evening to celebrate twelfth night. It was but a sad festival, and all present seemed to have fears for my life.

Tears were in every eye. I took a tender farewell of the Margrave Philip. My marriage had not altered our friendship, and I felt sensibly affected in separating from those I loved.

The next day, the 7th of January, we removed to Potsdam. The king received me with open arms. The hope of seeing himself shortly a grandfather gave him inconceivable pleasure: he loaded me with attentions and caresses, and I made use of the good temper which he was in to ask a favour. Madame de Sonsfeld had three nieces, daughters of the General Marwitz, and heiresses to considerable wealth: her sister being dead, she had brought them up. The eldest was fourteen years of age, and the aunt had a wish to take her to Bareith to finish her education: she did not dare, however, accomplish her design without the express permission of the king, that prince having made a decree, by which heiresses were forbidden to leave the country under the penalty of a confiscation of their estates. The king granted my request, on condition that I would give him my word of honour not to marry her out of his realm, on which point* I satisfied him.

* As this circumstance will be found of consequence in a future part of these memoirs, the reader is requested to favour it with attention.

The day of my departure being at length fixed for the 11th of January, I determined to make a last attempt to move the compassion of the prince. I found means of speaking to him in private, and of opening to him my heart. I apologized for my past conduct, without committing the queen. I painted to him in the most forcible colours the grief which his misfortune had occasioned me, to which I added a lively portrait of my then situation, entreating him by all that he held most sacred not to abandon me, but to grant me his countenance and protection. My discourse had its effect: he was drowned in tears, and was unable to reply to me for some time. Sobbing violently at intervals, he explained the state of his mind sufficiently by his endearments: at length, by an effort to restrain his emotions, he said: "*I am grieved that I had not known you. I had received such a horrible description of you, that I have hated as much as I now love you. If I had written to you we might both have been spared much chagrin, but they prevented my speaking to you by representing that you were worse than a fiend, and that you would lead me to extremities that I would wish to avoid. Your mother, by her intrigues, is in part the cause of the misfortunes of the family. I have been deceived and imposed upon on every side; but my hands are tied, and although my heart is grieved, I must leave these iniquities unpunished.*" I took the part of the queen, by

representing to his majesty that her intentions had been good; and that the friendship alone which she had had for my brother and myself had induced her to act as she had done; and that hence he could not take it ill. "*Do not enter into that detail,*" said he: "*what is past is past, and I would wish to bury it in oblivion. For yourself, my beloved girl, rest assured that you are the dearest to me of my family, and that I will religiously perform the promises that I have made, to give you a preference to my other children. Continue to have confidence in me, and depend always on having my countenance and protection. I am too afflicted to take my leave of you. Embrace your husband for me, for I am too much overcome to see him.*" He withdrew, dissolved in tears. I retired equally affected, and went to the queen. My separation from her was not so affecting as that from the king. Notwithstanding my submission and endearments, she remained cold as ice, without the least emotion, and without shewing me the least kindness. The Duke de Holstein conducted me to the coach, into which I entered with the Prince de Sonsfeld and Madame.

I arrived safe the same evening at Closterzin, which is the first stage. The second was not so fortunate as the first. The coach broke down on my side: two pair of loaded pistols, and two heavy trunks, which they had fastened there, I don't

know why, fell on me without doing me the least harm. Madame de Sonsfeld concluded that I was killed, and her fear blinded her so much that she cried out unceasingly, like a maniac, "*My God! Lord Jesus! have pity on us.*" I thought that she was hurt, which alarmed me more than the fall, and I inquired if she had sustained any injury, when she replied, "*Oh, my God! no, madam; I have only been alarmed for you.*" The hereditary prince, who had leaped from the coach door, I found more dead than alive. He had not presence of mind enough even to ask if I was hurt. The scene appeared highly comic to me. I was loaded like a mule, with all the baggage of the carriage, from which they did not disengage me without some difficulty. The Margrave carried me over a field covered with snow: he froze as he walked; and my shoes were frozen to my feet. I appeared to be something in the situation of Lot's wife, with the chance of becoming at least a pillar of ice, if my attendants had not come to my assistance. My women were crying and lamenting sadly, taking it into their heads that I should have a miscarriage: they sprinkled me with all manner of volatile spirits, and presented me with nauseous drugs, which I would not touch. After some time, the coach was repaired, and we proceeded on our journey.

M. de Burstell, the king's privy counsellor,

accompanied me to take upon him at Bareith the situation of minister at that court: he called on my *gouvernante* immediately on our arrival at Torgau, and begged her to represent to me, that although I did not feel the effects of the shock that I had met with, prudence required that I should remain some days on the road to prevent the dangerous consequences that might ensue. Madame de Sonsfeld and M. de Voit gave the same advice, and they expressed their fears to the prince, so that I could only obtain leave to go as far as Leipsic the next day. I, however, anticipated some diversion; the fair, one of the most celebrated in Germany, being then held. There are always at that time a number of strangers in the city, whither likewise the court of Dresden commonly repairs.

We arrived at Leipsic the following day. For the sake of decorum, I was first put to bed. I then made inquiries if there were a great many people there; but oh! what a disappointment. The fair was over, and the court, as well as the strangers, had left the place the evening before; and instead of amusement, I was cruelly fatigued the two days that I was obliged to stay there. Distressed with ceremonies, and fine compliments, I set out at length to pursue my journey, which passed well enough, with the exception of the fears which I entertained at

times, from our approaches to rocks and precipices. The roads were abominable, and although the cold was excessive, I preferred walking to the chance of being overturned.

At length I arrived at Hoff, the chief city of the territory of Bareith. They received me in state, and the guns were fired. The citizens under arms lined the streets to the castle. The Marshal de Reitzenstein, with some of the court, and all the nobility in the neighbourhood of Voigtland, waited my arrival at the bottom of the stairs (if a sort of wooden ladder deserved that name), and conducted me to my apartment. M. de Reitzenstein complimented me on the part of the Margrave on my arrival in his territory: I was afterwards obliged to accept the tedious compliments of the nobility. M. de Voit had entreated me to receive these people with attention. It is known that the house of Austria has given certain privileges to the nobles at the expence of the princes, which are altogether unjust, and serve only to debase the sovereigns of the empire, who would never willingly acknowledge them. Every gentleman pretends to be as much a sovereign at home as the prince to whom he is a vassal, which has occasioned numerous disputes and litigations. The nobility of Voigtland were separated from the rest, having quarrelled with the other cantons. The margrave seized this oppor-

tunity of reducing them, some few privileges excepted, to the same footing with the other vassals; and not content with that, he had attempted a little before his marriage to deprive them even of those which had been left them, when these gentlemen, not being in the humour to submit to the innovation, revolted, and excited a tumult which might have become of serious consequence, if it had not been appeased. At the time of my arrival, this discontent was not over. M. de Voit, of an illustrious family, but of another canton, not having any estates in the margraviate, persuaded the prince that they should be treated with gentleness and regard, if he wished to re-establish tranquillity. They were all of great families, and had immense wealth. It will be doubtless thought that their manners corresponded not at all. I saw thirty of them, the greater part of whom were Reitzensteins, with physiognomies that would have frightened little children. Their faces were half covered with rusty wigs, resembling perukes, in each of which vermine, of as ancient origin as their own, had established their abode from time immemorial. Their fantastic figures were adorned with garments, which yielded not to the vermine for antiquity: they were the inheritance of their ancestors, who had transmitted them from father to son.

The greater part of these bundles of rags

were ill-calculated to fit them; the gold on them was so tarnished, it could never be conjectured what it had been. They were, however, their court suits; and they did not believe themselves of less consequence under those tattered garments of antiquity than the emperor clothed in those of Charlemagne. Their grotesque manners agreed perfectly with their attire: they might have been taken for clowns: and by way of completing their agreeable qualities, most of them had the itch. I had the greatest trouble in the world to suppress my laughter when I beheld these scare-crows. It did not, however, end here: they introduced to me presently afterwards animals of another species---the clergy, to whose harangues I was also compelled to listen. These had ruffs round their necks, which were so large that they resembled small baskets. The one who was spokesman snuffled, and spoke so slow, that I lost all patience. At length I released myself from this Noah's ark, and sat down to table, to which the principal nobility had been invited.

I commenced the conversation on various indifferent topics to engage these automatons to speak, but without being able to procure any thing else from them than yes, or no. Not knowing what farther to say, I thought that I would speak of economy. At the bare mention of the word the spell was dissolved. Every one

began to talk of his housekeeping, and of all that belonged to it. They differed, and disputed even in a manner very interesting, no doubt, to themselves; the one maintained that the cattle of the low countries were finer and worth more than those of the mountains; and some brilliant geniuses among them took the other side of the argument. I did not utter a syllable on the subject, and was ready to fall asleep, when I was told that M. Voit had proposed the health of the margrave in a goblet; and they presented me with one of so large dimension, that I could have put my head into it, besides which I had nearly let it fall.

The marshal of the court returned my compliment by drinking my health, that of the king, the queen, and, in short, all my brothers and sisters, one after the other. I was distracted with the innumerable bows; and in an instant I found myself in company with thirty-four drunken men, so drunk that they could not speak. Fatigued to the last degree, and disgusted with the sight of these disastrous faces, I rose from table, and retired little edified by my introduction. To compleat my chagrin, I was told that we must stop at Hoff the next day, it not being decent to travel on a Sunday. The sermon which I heard that day was in strict unison for dulness with the company of the pre-

ceding evening. The minister gave us an historical account of all the marriages made since the creation, from that of Adam and Eve to the days of Noah. He seemed to pique himself upon being extremely circumstantial, which provoked the laughter of the men, and made the women blush. The dinner went off in the same way as that of the preceding day.

I had a new treat in the afternoon, which was to receive the ladies of the court, whom I had not yet seen: they were the chaste wives of the nobility, who nowise yielded to their precious husbands. They appeared complete monsters. Their hair, which was false, and full of filth and nastiness, was dressed in huge curls resembling swallows' nests. Their dresses might boast as great antiquity as those of their lords, and were decorated with fifty knots of ribbons of all colours. Repeated awkward curtsies and strange gestures assisted the display. I have never seen any thing more ridiculous. There were among these apes some who had been at court: these performed for all the world like the *petits maitres* at Paris. They gave themselves extraordinary airs and graces, which the others attempted to imitate: to complete the picture, there was not any thing that could exceed in absurdity the manner in which these creatures surveyed us.

I set out the following day for Gefress, where the margrave expected me, and was received by him in a miserable inn. By way of consolation for such bad accommodation, he assured me that the Emperor Joseph had passed a night there: he shewed me a number of civilities, and loaded the prince and myself with friendly professions. After supper he led me to my bed-chamber, where he kept me in conversation about two hours, and which turned chiefly upon Telemachus, and the Roman History, by Amelot de la Houssaye, the only two books which he had read, but which he knew by heart as well as a priest his breviary. The good prince was not gifted with eloquence: his reasonings might be compared to those old sermons which we read to put ourselves to sleep. The state in which I was incommoded me greatly. I felt ill, and should have fallen at my length on the floor, if the prince had not supported me. I had a terrible fainting fit, from which I did not recover until some hours afterwards; but although I still remained indisposed, I set out the next day for Bareith, which was only three miles distant.

I arrived at Bareith the 22d of January, at six o'clock in the evening. The detail of my reception may not be unacceptable. It was as follows:

After the firing of the musquetry, I was harangued on the part of the margrave by M. de Doebenek, Grand Officer of Bareith. He was a tall and stiff figure, affecting to speak pure German, and possessing the declamatory art of some of our comedians; in other respects he was a very good and worthy man. We entered the town soon afterwards, under a triple discharge of cannon. The coach, in which were the gentlemen, headed the procession; mine followed, drawn by six post-horses; then followed the carriage with the ladies; afterwards the servants; and lastly, to complete the cavalcade, six or seven baggage-waggons. I was a little vexed at this reception, but I made no observations. The margrave, and the two princesses, his daughters, received me at the foot of the stairs with the court. He conducted me first to my apartment, which was so handsome that it deserves particular mention. I was introduced into it by a long corridor, adorned with the natural tapestry of the spider, and so filthy and dirty, that it almost turned my stomach. I was then conducted into an immense large room, the ceiling of which, although antique, constituted its chief ornament: the hangings appeared to have been very handsome in their time, but were now so old and tarnished, that it would have been impossible to guess what they had represented, without the aid

of a microscope. The figures were as large as life, and the faces so faded and full of holes, that they seemed so many spectres. The adjoining closet was hung with a linsey-woolsey, of the colour of dirt; at the side of this was another, the green damask quilting of which had an admirable effect; I say quilting, for it was in shreds, the cloth appearing through innumerable places. I next entered my bed-chamber, which I found decorated with green damask, studded over with golden coloured eagles, sadly frayed. My bed was so handsome and so very *new*, that in fifteen days time the curtains would have disappeared; for as soon as they were touched by the hand they fell into pieces. This magnificence, to which I had been unaccustomed, surprised me very much. The margrave presented me with a chair, and we seated ourselves to commence a conversation, in which Telemachus and Amelot were not forgotten.

I was introduced soon after my arrival to the court, and to the foreigners. Here follow their portraits; and to begin with the margrave.

This prince, aged forty-three years, was rather handsome than ugly: his physiognomy was not prepossessing; it might be numbered among those which have no meaning. He was very thin, and bow-legged: he had neither air nor grace, though he attempted to display

both; and his ill-conditioned body contained as narrow a mind: he knew so little, that he actually thought that he had a great deal of wit. The margrave was, however, very polite, though he was destitute of that ease and address which sets off politeness to advantage. Infatuated with vanity, he was continually talking of his knowledge of the art of reigning, and of his justice. He would willingly have been thought possessed of firmness, and prided himself upon it; but in fact, he had a great share of weakness and timidity. He was besides deceitful, jealous, and suspicious. The last fault was, however, pardonable, having contracted it from his having been formerly duped by the persons to whom he had given his confidence. He had no application whatever for business, and reading Telemachus and d'Amelet had spoiled his taste: he had, however, drawn from them maxims of morality which agreed with his character and his passions: his conduct was a mixture of greatness and meanness: at one moment he appeared the emperor, and insisted on a ridiculous etiquette which was not agreeable to him, and the next he lowered himself so much as almost entirely to forget his dignity: he was neither avaricious nor generous, and never gave without being reminded to do so. His greatest fault was being fond of his wine, which he drank from morning till night, and which contributed greatly

to weaken his intellects. I believe that he had not a bad heart. His popularity had procured him the love of his subjects. Notwithstanding the mediocrity of his talents, he was endowed with considerable penetration, and knew completely the characters of those who composed his administration and court. The margrave piqued himself as being a physiognomist, and of his power, through that art, of discovering the real characters of those who were about him. Several knaves, however, whom he retained as spies, caused him to commit various acts of injustice by their false representations. I have myself experienced the effects of their calumnies.

The Princesse Charlotte, eldest daughter of the margrave, might have passed for a perfect beauty; but she was merely a fine statue, being totally destitute of manners, and being afflicted at times with a derangement of mind.

The second, Wilhelmina, was tall and well made, but not handsome; this was made up to her in understanding: she was the favourite of her father, whom she governed entirely until my arrival: she was of an artful disposition, to which might be added, insupportable arrogance, with a great deal of deceit and coquetry: her marriage however produced a very great change in her character; and I can safely say that she now possesses as many good qualities as she before possessed bad ones.

Madame de Gravenreuther, their governess, was a good-natured country girl, who only served to amuse them. Baron Stein, the prime minister, is of a great and illustrious house; he has the most elegant manners, with a knowledge of the world; he is a perfect gentleman, but possessed of no great share of understanding: he is among the number of those personages who say yes to every thing, and who do not see into any thing beyond their nose.

M. de Voit, my grand-master, of as illustrious a house as the last, was second minister: he is an agreeable man, who has travelled much, and has been in the great world; he is agreeable enough in society, and with the rest, a man of fortune; but his pride and arbitrary manners render him odious to every body, while his desire to rule occasions him to commit numerous rudenesses, while his want of firmness, and his continual alarms and panics, have procured him the title of *the Father of difficulties*. The truth is, that he takes umbrage at every thing, and perpetually vexes himself without rhyme or reason.

M. de Fischer, also a minister, plebeian as he was, found means to raise himself by degrees, until he obtained that employ; he had the merit of people of his condition, who rise in the world and forget the lowness of their extraction; he affects the great lord. De Fischer is of a restless,

intriguing, and ambitious spirit. Hence he possesses the confidence of the Margrave: disappointed at not having had any part in the affairs of my marriage, and angry that M. de Voit, of whom he was the sworn enemy, had brought it about, he let all his rage fall on the prince and myself, and caused us some cruel vexations.

M. de Corff, grand-equerrey, might certainly have passed for the greatest blockhead of the age; he did not even possess common sense, yet imagined, however, that he had a great deal of wit: he was what may be truly called a wicked wretch, for he was a plotter, a boaster, and a babbler.

The grand-huntsman, de Gleichen, is a worthy and respectable man, who meddles with nothing but his business. His barbarous physiognomy bears the impression of his calling, with which the horns of Actean are in conformity: he wears them with patience, having consented to separate from his wife who had planted them, that she might marry her lover. I have often seen that lady in company with her two husbands; the first is yet alive; the second, who was M. de Berghover, is dead.

The Colonel de Reitzenstein is a very depraved man, addicted to every vice, without even a mixture of any virtues: he is no longer in service.

M. de Wittinghoff was the copy of the former. I shall pass over the rest in silence, having made

mention of these only, because they are connected with this Memoir.

I was not much gratified by my introduction to the court of Bareith; and still less so by the wretched entertainment of the evening---miserable ragouts seasoned with sour wine, large raisins, and onions. I felt ill at the end of my repast, and was obliged to retire. They had not taken the least care about me; my apartment had not even been warmed; the windows were broken; which occasioned the rooms to be insupportably cold. I was sick to death the whole night: it passed away in sufferings, and in sorrowful reflections on my situation. I found myself in a new world, with people more like rustics than courtiers. Poverty was discernible every where. It was in vain for me to look for the riches of which I had heard so much boasting. I could not discover the least vestige of their existence. The prince endeavoured to console me for the change. I loved him passionately, and conformity of disposition and character unites hearts. It was the case with us, and the only alleviation that I could find of my misery.

I kept my room the next day. I found the women as disagreeable as the men. The Baroness de Stein would not yield the precedence to my governante. I begged the Margrave to give an order; he promised me to do so; but did nothing in it.

The day following was a grand entertainment: there were many of them at this season, which I began to see would be the case. The noise of cymbals and of trumpets was heard at three different times; that is to say, at eleven o'clock, at half past eleven, and at twelve. The prince, followed by the whole court, at this last signal paid his visit to his father, whom he conducted to me. Every body was in their gala dress; M. de Reitzenstein acquainted us that the entertainment was ready, and walked before us with his staff of office. The margrave gave me his hand, and led me into a great parlour hung with the same dirty linsey-woolsey which adorned my cabinet. The table of twenty covers was placed in an alcove under a canopy: the guard attended: I was placed at the top. There were only M. de Burstel and the ministers invited: the remainder of the retinue of the court was placed behind us until the first course was removed: the only lady who dined with us was my governante. About thirty healths were drunk, accompanied by the sound of the cymbals and trumpets, and by the discharge of cannon. This insupportable parade lasted three hours, which appeared to me an age, being ill and unable to bear it. I fainted continually, and was unable to touch any thing that was offered me. The margrave treated me with many *fêtes* after this, which I could not enjoy on account of my

state of health: I was not able even to sit at table. My governante accompanied me constantly, and ate her meals by stealth to save me the mortification of seeing food that I could not taste. To punish me for this repose, I was teased with the company of the margrave in the afternoons, which was a cruel restraint, and inconvenienced me sadly: at length they represented to him that I declined so fast that they were apprehensive of a miscarriage, and that his visits prevented my paying proper attention to myself.

The Princess Wilhelmina and M. Fischer, mortified at the ascendancy which I had over the mind of the margrave, began to disturb our happiness. I was foolish enough to begin the quarrel. I cannot suppress my feelings, and am convinced of the fault of my disposition. M. de Voit had obtained his post of grand-master at our palace by the interest of the king: the margrave, jealous and suspicious at the attachment he shewed to the prince and me, entertained a violent aversion to him, an aversion at all times so well dissembled that nobody but M. Fischer had perceived it, who being the sworn enemy of De Voit, his rival in the favour of that prince, seized the opportunity of exciting more discontent in his mind against me: he insinuated to him that M. de Voit, being of the immediate nobility, would not fail of prepossessing the mind of the hereditary prince in favour of

those who were so, which might produce the most frightful consequences ; that the nobility of Vogtland, being very dissatisfied, would form a party to compel him to yield the regency in favour of his son ; that according to all appearances the king would strongly support the latter ; that the interests of this prince were so intimately connected with those of the emperor, that no doubt could be entertained of his acting in concert with the king to reduce the margrave to take the same part with the King Victor Amedias de Sardaigne in abdicating the throne. This pompous display of absurdity produced its effect. The margrave did not take pains to examine into the shallowness of his reasoning : it does not rest with the emperor to compel a sovereign prince to yield the regency, nor even to leave the empire without the consent of the whole Germanic body. It was this same M. Fischer who had regulated my entrance into Bareith, and who had advised the margrave to mortify us by neglects. The number of attentions that I had shewn the margrave kept him still in doubt, besides he had never found M. de Voit either at the prince's, or with me when he came unexpectedly upon us ; and perhaps his suspicions would have vanished if the circumstance which I am about to relate had not served to awaken them.

M. de Voit came to request me to represent to

the margrave, that notwithstanding all the trouble that he had had in effecting my marriage, he had not received the least recompense whatever; that prince had not even given him any additional allowance on account of the employment which he held in my establishment, although the situation led him into inevitable expences, which he was ill able to afford; that he entreated me therefore to use my influence in such a way as might induce the margrave to confer on him the place of grand-bailiff of Hoff, which he had already promised him more than once. I considered his suit so just that I made no scruple of giving it my support, and determined to seize the proper opportunity.

The margrave had frequently expressed to me the great desire he had to see the service of plate which had been made me a present of by the king: I had told him jestingly that I would produce it on some occasion when it might be displayed in all its lustre. The prince some days after invited him in my name. There was a ball before supper. The margrave appeared in very good humour, but got out of temper when we sat down at table. I was afterwards told that he changed colour when he cast his eyes on the plate, which was very handsome, and much more magnificent than his

own: he, however, knew so well how to dissemble, that he soon became composed, and said a thousand obliging things to me, accompanied with assurances that I was even more dear to him than his own children. I took this opportunity to present to him the letter from M. de Voit, begging him to grant me the first favour that I had ever asked him: he took the letter with impatience. “*I beg, madam,*” said he, “*you will spare me your solicitations in future: when I confer favours on people I grant them of my own accord, and have no occasion for any one to remind me of them.*” My surprise prevented me from making an immediate reply, and in a few moments he rose from table. I own my folly: I was quite enraged at him: I had been brought up in the expectation of receiving the highest honours, destined to fill successively the first thrones of Europe. I was imbued with the sentiments which had been instilled into my mind at Berlin, where they speak of the king as the only great and powerful monarch of that vast hemisphere, who treat the princes of the empire, and even the electors, as so many vassals, whom he could exterminate whenever he thought proper. These false impressions made me conceive that the margrave was very much honoured in having me for a

daughter-in-law, and I could not forgive the little regard which he shewed me on this occasion. A polite refusal would not have hurt me; but his furious look, his gestures, and the cool and mortifying manner in which he answered me hurt me extremely. I made bitter complaints of it to Burstel, who never having been employed on state affairs had the same prejudices as myself. He was warm and hasty, and instead of appeasing me, only served to increase my chagrin. My governante, who was present, seeing me much affected, became alarmed on my account: the invectives of Burstel had roused her: full of a mistaken zeal, she sought the margrave, whom she gently reproached for his want of consideration for me. This prince made her a sharp answer, which she replied to, and in a word they disputed together so violently that it put an end to the ball.

As soon as we had retired, the prince, who had been already informed of the whole of the scene, brought Burstel and Voit to me. He was young and impetuous. There was a terrible noise. We all spoke at once, Madame de Sonsfeld excepted, who cried without saying a word: in short, all this bustle ended without coming to any arrangement.

The day following, the Marshal de Reitzen-

stein was commissioned to scold poor M. de Voit, and took him a dose, prepared on the part of the margrave, for his having dared to address himself to me to obtain his suit. That prince even thought fit to make him return his order; under the pretext that having already that of St. John, he could not wear them both together. The marshal was a very good and well intentioned man: he begged M. de Voit to acquaint me that the prince was very angry with me, and enraged beyond measure against Madame de Sonsfeld, and that he intended to write to the king to complain of her conduct, and to solicit her recal to Berlin. Voit recounted all these things to me in the presence of Burstel, who was for my immediately writing an express to the king to acquaint him with the whole matter. I was of the same opinion, although it was badly judged: fortunately my governante, who was not so precipitate, recommended him to dissemble in the presence of those whom he knew to be the spies of the margrave, and to make them believe that he would have sent that dispatch to Berlin if I had not prevented it. This expedient succeeded, and the assumed sentiments of de Burstel were communicated to the margrave, who began to be alarmed, and the generosity they had ascribed to me pleased

him so much; that he wrote a very polite letter to me the next day. I answered in the same style, and the affair was adjusted, at least to all appearance, for he did not like me in his heart, and this last business had roused all his suspicions.

A little time afterwards I received a letter from my brother full of lamentations. "Until this time," said he, "my fate has been mild. I have lived pleasantly in my garrison: my flute, my books, and the company of some kind friends have made my life tolerable, and they would compel me to abandon this tranquillity to marry the Princess de Bevern, whom I do not know: they have extorted a consent from me which has occasioned me much uneasiness. Must one suffer for ever these tyrannies without the hope of a change? Yet if my dear sister was but here I could bear my chagrin with more patience." I was very much affected by my brother's letter. I loved him dearly, and this mark of confidence gave me considerable satisfaction. The queen notified to me some days after the promises of the prince-royal: what she wrote on the subject of my intended sister-in-law was as follows:

"The princess is handsome, but as vulgar as a basket-woman; she has not the least educa-

tion. I don't know how my son will reconcile himself to this young ape."

This news, besides the chagrin which it occasioned me, from the interest which I took in my brother's happiness, produced other mortifications. The Princess Wilhelmina had flattered herself until then that she should have him for a husband; and taking it into her head that I could bring it about, she had made all imaginable advances. I had given her credit for her caresses, never having doubted of her views. I could very much have wished that one of my sisters-in-law had been agreeable to my brother. It may be seen from the portrait which I have drawn that they were not to his taste. At all events, she was very angry with me, on the supposition that I had opposed the match, and that I had not given an advantageous report of her to the queen. Her jealousy, added to the spitefulness of her temper, inclined her to take revenge; and she found an opportunity to indulge it a short time after, as I shall relate.

I received about this time another letter from my brother. He wrote to me, that having a great many things to impart which he dared not commit to paper, he had persuaded the Prince Alexander of Wirtemberg to visit Bareith, and

acquaint me with all. I informed the margrave of this intended visit; but that prince neither liked the company of his friends nor strangers, because he did not know what to say to them, which occasioned him frequent embarrassments. He counterfeited illness, that he might not receive the duke, and begged of me to do the honours in his absence. The duke arrived very late. After the first compliments, he acquitted himself of the commission which he had received from my brother, by relating that he was much distressed at the thoughts of his marriage; that the princess was so badly educated that she only answered yes or no to all that was said to her; that many people thought she was mute for political reasons, though it was a defect that originated only in her not being able to express herself properly. He made me acquainted that Sekendorff and Grumkow were every thing with the king; and that the queen, notwithstanding the constraint which she underwent in public, suffered the most cruel chagrin. Our conversation was of some length, and much too interesting to have been finished so soon. They afterwards presented the duke to the two princesses, whom he saluted in silence. I passed my time very agreeably with him, and intreated him to remain at Bareith until the next day. The

Princess Wilhelmina behaved like a fiend, because I had not presented her first to the duke, and that I had remained so long a time in conversation with him. She began with my *gouvernante*, whom she treated most scandalously. Madame de Sonsfeld, who was not very forbearing, and who thought with reason that she had no right whatever to ill-treat her, severely retorted. I preserved my temper some time, but at length lost it: I gave her some sharp words, and there let the matter rest.

As soon as the duke was gone she dispatched an Italian, who was her *maid*, to the margrave, to request that he would give her an audience. This Italian creature was as mischievous as the devil; and the chronicle of scandal said that she was the mistress of that prince: I do not, however, believe the fact to have been so. She had a long *tête-à-tête* with him to prepare his mind for all that the princess had to say. He dined that day alone with his daughter. I was very much surprized to find her in the afternoon with her eyes swelled and inflamed: I asked her if any thing had vexed her, as she seemed to have been crying. She answered me in a tone of irony that she had a cold, and that she had no reason to be unhappy, her father having shewn her every kindness and attention that she

could desire. I had had too much experience to be duped by her, and perceived in an instant that some intrigue was practising against me. Several persons of the best intentions confirmed me in my suspicions, and convinced me that there was nothing too bad that she had not said of me. She had so effectually poisoned the mind of the margrave, that from that time he has done me many spiteful turns. She complained, above every thing, that I had treated her like a servant, which was altogether false. Not content with sowing discord between my father and me, she would also have made a quarrel between me and the prince. She besieged him continually, went a hunting with him, and walked out with him every day in such a manner, that I saw him but very seldom.

As the weather was extremely bad, and I was very much indisposed, I could not go out: I pretended to be sleepy in the afternoons, that I might get rid of my attendants, and weep undisturbed. The friendship of the prince could alone have consoled me: I saw myself on the point of losing him by the machinations of my sister-in-law. I was so poor, that I had not enough to purchase a habit with: I had already spent two quarters of the money which they had given me at Berlin in presents which were

indispensable, and which I was obliged to make there. Neither the king nor the queen would give me a farthing, neither could I borrow of any one, which involved me in great distress. I was like the sheep among the wolves in a court; or rather in a village among brutal, wretched, and dangerous people, without the least recreation. In this state of wretchedness Madame de Sonsfeld endeavoured to console me, but in truth she was as unhappy as myself. I put on, however, a good face, and much against my inclination endeavoured to regain the friendship of the margrave. I must now put a stop to my lamentations to recount a comic scene.

It drew near the festival of St. George. The margrave, Christian Ernest, had instituted the order of the red eagle on the same day, since which time it has been always celebrated with great pomp and ceremony. The margrave created the knights, and none were invested with the order who were not of very great families. This order was so distinguished, that it was worn by several of the princes. Although very weak and dejected, I followed the court to Brandenburgher, a country-seat a small distance from the town. I have never seen any thing more delightful than the situation: the building is full of defects, and far from com-

modious. The garden, though not large, is pretty: it is bordered by a lake, in the middle of which there is an island where they have constructed a port, in which is seen a flotilla composed of yachts and galleys, which have a beautiful appearance. They gave us a triple salute from the port and the vessels; after which the flourish of the trumpets and the noise of the cymbals were heard at three different times. At length we put ourselves in procession---the prince with the gentlemen, and myself with the ladies near the margrave, who was placed above, richly habited, at the side of a table, on which he leant with one hand to imitate the etiquette of Vienna: he attempted even to personate the emperor, and affected a grave and majestic appearance to create respect. He did not succeed with me: it was so ridiculous, that I had some trouble to keep a serious countenance. The prince and myself were the first admitted to the audience; then the princesses, and after them every body came in promiscuously.

When the margrave was surfeited with compliments, he invested two gentlemen with the order, to whom he made a speech, bad enough in substance, and as badly delivered. Another salute of the guns followed; after which we

took our seats at table: I could remain only for a minute, not being able to endure the smell of the dishes. There was a salute of cannon to every health which was given. The gentlemen drank copiously: they were all intoxicated except the prince. Although it was then the month of April, the cold was insupportable. An accident occasioned our return to town, and spared us two tiresome *fêtes*, similar to the one I have just described, and which we should have been obliged to have given. A fire broke out in the night in the apartment of the ladies who slept above me, and my chamber was so much damaged that I could not remain there any longer. I was delighted with the thoughts of returning to Ba-reith, the cold having been very injurious to me.

Some time afterwards I found myself far advanced in my pregnancy. Madame de Sonsfeld made the margrave acquainted with it through M. de Reitzenstein, who applied to him to give his orders that prayers might be offered up for me in the churches. The margrave laughed heartily, and told him that it was all a feint of my governante, since he knew positively that I was not with child. As I was very small, and my increased size was scarcely ob-

servable, the Princess Wilhelmina had made him believe that there was no foundation for the report: they had all the trouble in the world to persuade the margrave that it was so. M. de Burstel was obliged to speak to him on the subject to get permission that I should be included in the prayers. It is impossible to describe the joy which the news occasioned in the country. The extreme satisfaction which was every where felt stung the margrave to the quick. In spite of all his dissimulation it was easy to discover his vexation, and his ill-humour increased from the insinuations of his daughter and of M. Fischer, who kept repeating in his ears that the hereditary prince was more beloved than himself, and that every body would turn towards the rising sun: the margrave even threw off all constraint, and said openly that he wished that I might be delivered of a daughter, since if I had a son he should be obliged by the marriage-contract to give me an increase of allowance. Quite enraged, the margrave drew the prince aside one evening into my adjoining closet, and after having quarrelled with him for a long time upon his pretended alliances with the present nobility, required of him a sincere avowal of his intrigues. It was in vain that the prince declared his in-

nocence, and represented to him that that tale originated only in the malice of bad people, whose design was to set them at variance. He could not, however, undeceive him; the margrave only got more angry: in a fit of rage he seized his son by the collar, and raised his cane to strike him, which he would have done if I had not entered at the moment. The prince took the stick from his father, and endeavoured to make him loose his hold, that he might escape from him: it is easy to judge what must have been my alarm. My appearance, however, made him let go the prince, and seemed to disconcert him: he wished me a good night, and retired.

The prince could not preserve his temper: I had great difficulty to keep him quiet. As, however, he had a good heart, I managed to appease him by means of remonstrances, and made him promise that he would submit to his father. The affair was accommodated the next day, and on the strength of it I took an opportunity of having a proper understanding with the margrave. I spoke to him with so much firmness, and convinced him so completely of the injustice of his suspicions, that he promised to inform me in future of all the malicious reports which he might hear of the prince and

myself. This news was a clap of thunder to my sister-in-law: she was apprehensive that she should be the victim of their reconciliation; but she was deceived: I was too generous to seek revenge. I was bled some time afterwards, which occasioned so great a revolution, that I was very ill for several days. My sister-in-law scarcely ever quitted me, and shewed me every attention: I foresaw that she had some view, without being able to guess what it was; she discovered it to me herself one day when she was alone with me. “I flatter myself, madam,” said she, “that you have some regard for me, which encourages me to speak to you in confidence. Notwithstanding the kindness which my father shews me, he entirely neglects the affair of my establishment, and would forget it altogether, if he was not put in mind of it. I know my cousin, the hereditary Prince of Ostfrise: we have loved each other from our most tender years, and our mutual regard has only increased with age. His mother, who is my aunt, ardently wishes us to be united: she has often entreated my father to send me to Ostfrise, assuring him that she would treat me as her own child, and give me to her son in marriage, if he was yet agreeable to me. I supplicate then, your royal highness, in the

name of God, to persuade my father to consent to my wishes, in permitting me to go to Aurich, where I am already impatient to be arrived."

I found myself very much embarrassed at this discourse, not knowing what to answer, and fearing that the confidence she seemed to repose in me was only an artifice to sound me. "I am quite wretched," replied I, "that I am unable to be of any use to you in the way which you require: I have made a vow never to interfere in any marriage affair, and cannot consent to ask the margrave to part with you; besides, my dear sister, the step which you meditate upon is very delicate, and deserves to be weighed maturely before it can be spoken of to the prince. You cannot go from hence without having a promise of marriage with the usual forms. It is a long time since you have seen the Prince of Ostfrise. Are you sure that you will find him the same as when you last parted; and that your mutual inclinations may not be changed? You would be very unhappy in that case; for after having taken the first step, you would be obliged to complete the marriage, or cover your house with opprobrium. Do not be in haste then, and do nothing without having well deliberated on what may be said for and

against the alliance.” At this discourse the princess began to cry bitterly, saying that I had an inveterate hatred to her, denying her even my assistance to promote her happiness; that she had not the courage to say any thing herself to her father on the subject; that she conjured me not to abandon her, but to speak to him for her: at length I yielded to her entreaties, and acquitted myself of my commission.

The margrave was very much surprised when he learned the intentions of his daughter: he sent for her immediately, not believing that she was really in earnest. She immediately confirmed what I had related, and entreated him to give his consent. The margrave started the same objections which I had done, but she pressed him so strongly that at length he granted her request. I was not present at this conversation. The margrave wrote the same day to the princess, her sister, and engaged to send his daughter, provided that she gave sufficient security for the marriage taking place. I shall let this affair rest here, until the answer of the princess arrived, which was not for some months after.

The emperor and empress visited Carlsbad about this time, to take the benefit of the baths, and mineral waters. The emperor had only three daughters, the archduke dying in 17 . .

hopes were entertained that these baths, so celebrated for fecundity, would procure the empress a son, and accomplish the wishes of all Germany. Several bad politicians, with whom our court abounded, recommended the margrave to go thither to pay his respects to the emperor. The prince begged of his father to allow him to accompany him, which permission was granted, with a very bad grace. They set out together with a miserable suite.

Although Carlsbad was only twelve miles from Bareith, the margrave did not complete his journey in less than four days: he rested every quarter of a mile to eat and drink. This excursion did not afford him the satisfaction which he had promised himself by it. The emperor and the empress paid great distinction to the hereditary prince, and all their conversation with the margrave was respecting myself; which mortified him extremely. He ill-treated the poor prince during the whole time, and kept him shut up in the house, without ever suffering him to go abroad, or into company.

At their return we went to the Hermitage, a country-house, unique in its kind, but of which I shall defer the description until another opportunity. The Princess d'Eutingen, wife of the Count de Hohenlow Veikersheim, came to visit

me. That princess, the cousin of the empress, on her mother's side, was remarkably plain, but a very sensible woman. The margrave, who had known her several years, liked her very much, and reposed great confidence in her. The Princess Charlotte had for a length of time fallen into a deep melancholy. Her father, by the instigation of the Princess Wilhelmina had taken a dislike to her, and used her ill. Her sister also, jealous of her beauty, behaved very unkind to her, and took a delight in tormenting her, notwithstanding all the pains that I used to make the margrave treat her with more tenderness, I could not succeed. She opened her heart to the Countess de Veikersheim, who proposed to him to take her home with us, that she might endeavour to amuse her mind. The margrave gave his consent, and they set out together.

The dispatches of Ostfrise arrived about this time. The princess gave all the securities required for the marriage between her niece and son. The departure of the Princess Wilhelmina was fixed at three weeks from thence, although I had never said a word respecting her to the prince: he was nevertheless very well pleased that she was going to leave us. Her extraordinary behaviour, with her fondness for schem-

ing, and his having frequently heard her say disrespectful things of me, had entirely disgusted him. The alteration which she observed in his behaviour to her was partly the cause of the resolution that she took to go to Aurich, having always flattered herself with the ascendancy over her brother, and that she should keep me in a state of dependance. Seeing these hopes disappointed, she preferred even an alliance, not very splendid, to the mortification of remaining idle in the bosom of her own family, where she might in time have found a better establishment. The margrave left us at the Hermitage, and went to Himmelcron to take leave of her. She took advantage, however, of the grief which this departure occasioned her father, to do us all the harm with him that she could, in which she succeeded to her desire. The princess was only regretted by her father, and by the busybodies of the court. I passed these few days in tranquillity at the Hermitage; but the margrave on his return very soon interrupted the few pleasures we enjoyed.

M. de Burstel took his leave and returned to Berlin, very dissatisfied with the margrave; and notwithstanding that I had expressly forbidden him, made the king acquainted with our unpleasant situation. That monarch, who had naturally

a good heart, was touched at his representations, and at the pitiable state of my health. He wrote to me as follows on the subject, which I give word for word.

“ I am extremely sorry, my dear child, that they should cause you so much vexation : although you have never made me acquainted with it, I know very well, it is to that, you owe your illness : you must come hither to your father and mother, who love you. I will have comfortable apartments prepared for you, that you may lie in here. Be assured of the most tender regard on my part, and that I shall consult your health and happiness all my life.”

I received afterwards several letters, as pressing as the above. I was dying. My frequent faintings had been succeeded by suffocations : my skin had turned black ; and the eyes started from my head. I could scarcely breath ; and was frequently on the point of being strangled.

Every body was of opinion that I should be bled, except the physicians of the town, who had been assembled to hold a consultation, and who would not suffer it to be done. “ Never,” said they, “ have we bled a woman twice who was pregnant.” They added, that this practice, which had originated in France, was founded in error, and contrary to all the rules of their

art. Whatever I could say to them, they would not give up the point, so much were they afraid of committing the crime of treason against the faculty. Notwithstanding my complaints, I even yet thought myself able to take the journey to Berlin. I lived in a wretched slavery. I did not dare go out, nor do the least thing without permission. If I spoke twice together to any body, I made them unhappy. When the prince rode out, they said that he would spoil the horses; when he went a hunting, he was reproached with destroying the game; and if he remained in his apartment, he was plotting. Let him conduct himself how he would, he was always considered in fault; and there was no end to quarrels and reprimands. We determined, therefore, to go to Berlin, to relieve ourselves from these tyrannies. I prayed the king to write to the margrave, which he did in very obliging terms. He was delighted with finding an excuse for parting with us. Neither the prince nor myself were in a situation to pay the expences of the journey: he was obliged therefore to speak to his father, who took care to raise no difficulties, and sent me the next day one thousand florins. The sum was so insufficient that it would scarcely take us half way on the road. I found what was wanting in the purses of my attend-

ants and poor domestics. It was now the end of June. I reckoned upon being brought to bed in the month of August.

The public murmured very much at this journey, and attributed the cause of it to the bad treatment of the margrave. These complaints reached him. Jealous of his character, he wished to exculpate himself from the charge, and chose M. Dobenek as the most eloquent man of the court to persuade me to remain at Bareith. His theatrical rhetoric did not prevail. I answered him in an obliging manner, without consenting to any thing, excusing myself on the ground of the impatience which I felt to see my family, and on the promise which I had made the king of being at Berlin in a few days.

I set out the next morning, and arrived in the evening at Himmelcron. The margrave received us at that place in a very friendly manner, and I found there M. de Bobenhausen, Minister of Cassel, whom I did not know. My weak and reduced state made an impression on him: he conversed on the subject the same evening with the prince, over whom he had some influence, and advised him not to suffer me to go any further. The principal physician of the Margrave of Anspach, whom they had consulted on my case, was of the same opinion, and said

plainly that if I went they might send my coffin with me at the same time, as I could not proceed two posts without running the risk of my life. He held the like conversation with the hereditary prince, who would not hear of my journey any more than his father: I was compelled therefore to yield to these forcible reasons and opinions. To compleat my misfortune, it was necessary that I should remain at Himmelcron. This country seat had been formerly a religious convent: the abbess having become protestant, or having been secularised, as well as her nuns, the convent after their death became a private house. The situation was beautiful, and the building convenient: the only walk, however, was a mall, which equalled in length and beauty the one at Utrecht. The margrave had established a falconry at this place, and the flight of the birds might be seen from the windows of the castle. We led but an unhappy life in this retirement. The king got drunk every day with his court: there were only intoxicated men to be seen, divested of even the little good sense which they might be said to possess: we were besides surrounded with spies. During the whole day our ears were assailed by the noise of two miserably bad trumpets, accompanied with the detestable horns of

the huntsmen. This discord obstructed my literary amusements, which constituted my only recreation. I had a little girl to read to me, named Marwitz, who was niece to my governante. The child was only fourteen years of age, and had been brought up by the Countess de Fink: she was destitute of education, mind, and manners: her aunt had taken great pains to improve her, but her love of idleness destroyed every chance of success: the girl possessed a great share of wit, and an extraordinary memory: she attached herself very much to me, which made me wish to reform her: I reasoned with her every day at our readings, and endeavoured to instil sentiments into her mind, and to teach her to think justly. I shall have much more to say of her in the course of these memoirs, of which she makes a principal part.

At length we set out from Himmelcron. The margrave and prince went to *Seld*, a little town on the confines of Bohemia, to join in a grand chace which they had prepared for them; and I returned to the hermitage.

I arrived thither very ill. The being unable to rest was now added to my other complaints; I could no longer lie down without fear of suffocation. They sent for the physician, who,

ignorantus, ignorantum, ignorantissimus, gave me a triple dose of a medicine strong enough in its usual quantity. I thought that I should die when it began to operate, and fainted from weakness. They began to fear a miscarriage: the goodness, however, of my constitution, and the care they took of me, preserved my life. A dispatch which I received from the king contributed greatly to my cure by the infinite joy which it gave me: he wrote that in three days he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me at the hermitage.

That monarch came from Prague: he had had a meeting with the emperor at a little town near that place, called Altrop, where they had constructed a hall, which had two entrances, for the purpose of the ceremonial. The emperor, the empress, and the king, were to arrive there at the same instant of time, and each of them were to enter by a separate door, and to remain in their places at table. Notwithstanding all the representations which they could make to the king, he was the first at the place appointed, and surprised the emperor very much in being there ready to receive him; he even made him compliments not usual for a crowned head. I have often heard the story of that interview since from Grumkow. "He was quite

enraged," said he, "to see how much his master humbled himself."

I sent the king's letter to the margrave by a dispatch, and he returned me another, requesting that I would take care of every thing that respected the reception of his majesty, and wrote further, that he should remain at Sells, which was in his route to meet that prince, and to accompany him to the hermitage: he acquainted me also that the Prince Albert, his brother, lieutenant-general in the service of the Emperor, and the Prince de Gotha, were with him. We were very much straitened for room at the hermitage when the margrave was there. It may be judged how inconvenient we must have found it to accommodate the king and his suite. I prepared Mon-Plaisir, an adjoining farm, for the margrave, his brother, and the Prince of Gotha, with which they were very content. I had just finished my arrangements, with some difficulty, when a fresh accident occurred, which was the cause of all that I have endured since.

M. de Bindeman, the only one of the court who remained with me, received a letter the same night from the grand-marshal of Anspach, which acquainted him that the Margrave and Margravine of Anspach, with a suite of more than a hundred persons, would visit the Her-

mitage the following evening. Poor Bindeman, (who though a very good creature without shining abilities) would not suffer me to be disturbed. The impossibility that he saw of receiving so many people had made him send an answer that the margrave would feel great pleasure in receiving the Margrave of Anspach, but that he should be very much embarrassed how to accommodate him, as he had scarcely room for the king. I learnt the news of the Margrave of Anspach's intended visit as soon as I awoke, and immediately made the margrave acquainted with the circumstance. I represented to him that the Court of Anspach would take it very ill if we did not find means to receive them at the Hermitage, and I was determined to remove and give up my chambers to them, that they might have room at Mon-Plaisir. The margrave immediately answered that he would on no account suffer me to quit my apartments; and requested me to have one prepared for him, and added that he was well aware if he disobliged the Margrave of Anspach he should give offence both to him and to the king.

I continued to expect my sister till eight o'clock in the evening. I grew uneasy at her delay, and I dispatched people in every direction in quest of her, fearing lest any accident might have happened. M. de Bindeman per-

ceiving my distress, said to me with a triumphant air; "Don't alarm yourself, madam, the margravine will not come; she has certainly turned back again." "How can you possibly know any thing of the matter?" said I. "Ah, madam! we are not so weak as you imagine; I foresaw the embarrassment you would be placed in." Then he told me what answer he had returned; and he appeared quite proud of what he had done. I at once foresaw the consequence, and I did not for a moment doubt but that it would be the occasion of a sad rupture between the two houses, and might even deprive me of all the advantages which I had expected to derive from the king's visit.

In the mean time M. de Sekendorff, grand-marshal of Anspach, arrived. I have already spoken of him: he was a worthy cousin of the minister of Berlin. He reproached me in the name of his master and mistress, telling me that such a disobliging refusal to receive a prince and a near relation was altogether unexampled; that the margrave, aware of the small regard and friendship entertained for him, would never have thought of paying us a visit, if he had not been ordered by the king; and that he should instantly set off to complain to that prince of our conduct. He assured me that the margrave had sworn never

more to set foot on the territory of Bareith. I apologized for the blunder of Bindeman, and at length persuaded him that the stupidity of that man was the sole cause of what had happened. He insisted notwithstanding on returning; but I endeavoured to amuse him till I could have time to give information to the post-master to refuse him horses.

The same evening I sent an account to the margrave of what had happened, and also an express to M. Gleichen, the grand-forester, ordering him to come to me. I delivered him letters for my sister and her husband. I made what excuse I could for the quiproquo of Bindeman, and invited them to return to the Hermitage. I passed a very disagreeable night. I had no other support but the king. I dreaded his anger, having no doubt that the family of Anspach would prejudice him against me. I was afraid of being ill-used, which I should have felt a thousand times more sensibly at Bareith than at Berlin, on account of the consequences. M. de Gleichen returned two hours before the arrival of the king. The margrave and my sister answered in a very obliging manner the letters which I wrote them; they were even charmed with my manner of proceeding; but they refused to come, notwithstanding all the intreaties of M. de Gleichen.

The king received me very graciously. He was much affected at finding me so thin and worn down that at first he hardly knew me. I wished to show him to his apartments, but he would not suffer me, and conducted me to mine, where we remained alone. The joy which I displayed, and the caresses which I gave him, pleased him, as he perceived they came from the heart. I naturally told him of the affair of the margrave of Anspach. I showed him the letters which I had received by Gleichen; and intreated him to bring about a reconciliation between us. "It is a pity," said he, "that Bindeman should have brought you into this dilemma, especially as you have to do with unreasonable people. My son-in-law imagines himself another Louis the XIV.; and you could do nothing less in his opinion than set off instantly to ask his pardon: he and his whole court are fools. However, I am very well satisfied with your conduct. I shall speak to Sekendorff and desire them to come, and may the devil take them if they refuse!" With these words he left me, and ordered a messenger to be dispatched accordingly.

Grumkow, and Sekendorff the minister, were in the suite of the king. I showed them every attention. They paid me many compliments

on the part of the empress, and told me that she had spoken of me to the king in the most flattering terms. The king, who had overheard our conversation, came forward to us: "Yes, my dear daughter, you ought to be grateful to that princess for her opinion of you: write a letter of thanks to her for it."

We sat down to table. The king gave me his hand, and took the first place that offered. He appeared in very good humour, which I disturbed a little. I was extremely weak, and I had made great efforts to constrain myself; but I became so ill that I was obliged to withdraw. The king followed me: he was with much difficulty tranquillized. I rose early next morning that we might take a walk together. He thought the place delightful, particularly my little hermitage, which I had caused to be fitted up for a smoaking-room. "You pay every possible attention to me," said he: "I imagine I am in my own palace. My chambers are fitted up as at Potsdam; I find my footstools, my tables, and my washing apparatus; I cannot conceive how you have done all this in so short a time."

The effort which I made to take so long a walk was fatal to me. I experienced at dinner my usual suffocations, and they were so very vio-

lent, that it was thought I should expire. As my time for lying-in was towards the end of the month, and it was then the seventh, the king imagined I was taken in labour. He sent instantly for Stahl, his first physician, who had just arrived from Berlin, and the midwife who was to assist me.

This man was a very able chemist, to whom we are indebted for several curious discoveries; but he was no great physician. His system was altogether singular: he pretended that when the soul was embarrassed by too great an abundance of matter, it freed itself by occasioning diseases to the body, which were of advantage to it; that dangerous and epidemical diseases only proceeded from the weakness of the soul, which, not having sufficient strength to repel this matter, troubled its operations, which frequently brought on death. In consequence of this mode of reasoning, he never made use of more than two species of remedies that he applied indifferently to all sorts of diseases, which were tempering powders and pills. He found me exceedingly ill, and gave me at once a dose of his marvellous pills.

The king and Madame de Sonsfeld remained the whole afternoon with me. He asked me many questions respecting my present situation.

I told him all my difficulties, intreating him however to give the margrave a good reception, because if he did not it would only irritate him the more. "I see very well," said he, "you were not in a condition to go to Berlin, but you must absolutely go there after you recover, that all difficulty on that subject may be removed. My son-in-law will set out first, and you will follow him when you are able. I shall pay the expences of yourself and suite, and endeavour so to arrange my affairs as to be of service to you. You will take your infant with you; I cannot suffer you to be ill-used. Your father-in-law and my son-in-law Anspach are two fools, who ought to be shut up in a madhouse. I shall for your sake pay attention to the former; but as for the latter and your sister-in-law, I shall bring them round to their duty, and reprimand them as they deserve." I conjured him to desist from this last purpose, representing to him that he would only render my sister more unhappy than she was before, and that he would bring them both back to their duty by using gentle means. I intreated him to act kindly towards them, lest they might accuse me of having instigated him to revenge myself of the last trick they had played me. He entered into my views, and yielded to my request. They arrived shortly after. The

king received them very coldly. As it was late, we sat down to table, where the king placed himself between my sister and me. After supper every one withdrew.

In the morning the king visited my sister. I know not if he was displeased with his reception, or if any other cause made him discontented with her and her husband; but I know well he did nothing but grumble at them the whole day. We were present with him in the smoaking-room in the evening. He entered into a long detail with the margrave my father-in-law on the state of his country. That prince, who was very ignorant in that respect, could give no answer to his questions. At this the king was displeased, and he reproached him with his want of application to business, which occasioned the terrible disorder that prevailed. "You are deceived by every one," said he, "and your carelessness is taken advantage of. You complain of your debts, and you take no step to pay them. I lent you a capital of two hundred and sixty thousand crowns, besides the dowry of my daughter; but instead of satisfying your creditors, you allow this sum to rot in your coffers, and lose not only the interest which it would bring you in, but your credit also. It is high time for you to remedy the evil. All your cares

will be useless, if you do not communicate with your son, who ought to assist you in supporting the weight of the government; and you ought accordingly to place him at the head of affairs. Your people, having two persons to watch them, will not dare to dupe you as formerly, especially when they will see a good understanding between you and your son. Besides, I know my son-in-law too well to believe that he will ever abuse the credit you give him. Send him every day to all the public offices; he will make you a report of every thing that passes; and his presence will oblige those who are there to become more laborious and expeditious."

This discourse made me very uneasy. I at once foresaw the consequences. The margrave was astonished, and returned a problematical answer. The king replied that he should not have interfered with his affairs, if the esteem which he entertained for him, and the interest of his children, did not induce him. "Do you wish, my dear margrave," he continued, "that I should send you a person to put your finances in order, and extricate you from your present embarrassment, from which you will never be freed if you do not make use of strangers; for your people support one another like a chain? Whoever attacks one attacks them all,

for they all agree in robbing you, and a third party alone will be able to counteract their schemes. I was in the same situation with yourself when I came to the government, and I found the benefit of the advice which I now give you."

The margrave, though piqued with the first proposition of the king, found the latter so judicious, that he accepted the offer with pleasure. The king made him promise to send us to Berlin after my recovery from lying-in, on the assurance that it should cost him nothing, and would save him a good deal of expence. Her father-in-law very willingly consented to this, and they separated, apparently very well satisfied with one another. In the evening I took a tender farewell of my dear father, not without shedding many tears. He departed the following day, the 9th of August.

The court of Anspach remained some days after his departure: Madame Grumkow was the cause of their remaining, the margrave, my brother-in-law, having fallen in love with her. The disagreeable life which he led with my sister had made him quite stupid; she was so jealous, that he durst not speak to a lady. Grumkow had no reason to be proud of her conquest. Any other but herself would have been piqued

at the manner in which the margrave paid his addresses to her, which was very rude and impertinent, and quite unsuitable to a modest woman. This girl inherited the slanderous tongue of her uncle : her satire was biting and severe ; and to this defect she added those of coquetry, pride, and lying most impudently. I had no confidence in her, knowing her bad character. This rising love threw my sister into despair. I did what I could to bring Madame Grumkow to reason, but in vain ; she knew that I durst not proceed to extremities with her on account of her uncle, and she gave herself very little concern about me. From this uneasiness I was relieved by the departure of the court of Anspach.

The margrave, who during all this time had been dissembling, now began to discharge all his venom against his son and me. He sent M. de Voit with orders to tell me that he was not dead yet, and that he hoped to live many years to torment me ; that so long as he lived, he intended to be master in his own house, and would not suffer me to assume airs of authority, as I had done lately, in bestowing the apartments prepared for him at Mon-Plaisir on the Margrave of Anspach ; that I had instigated the king to speak to him in the disagreeable manner

he did; that Madame de Sonsfield, whom he looked upon as his most cruel enemy, was the cause of all the mischief; that he was weary of her continual intrigues; and that he had firmly resolved to send her to the fortress of Placemburg, to convince her of the impropriety of interfering with him, and to teach her to shew more respect to her master.

This compliment, I confess, threw me into a terrible passion, and I exclaimed bitterly against the margrave, whom my tongue did not spare. Voit and my governante allowed my first fit to pass over. The latter was very little concerned at these menaces; she only laughed at them, and advised me to write to him in civil terms, and to answer this extravagant proceeding with mildness. It came into my mind to entrust Prince Albert with this letter, and to entreat him to effect a reconciliation. I had had time to form an acquaintance with him. He was a lieutenant-general in the service of the emperor, and had greatly distinguished himself in all the actions in which he had been. The countenance of this prince was ugly without being displeasing; his manners were polished, and his conversation agreeable. With all these advantages, he possessed a good disposition, and much good sense; and he entertained

a strong friendship for his nephew and me, and kept us company faithfully. Already I had frequently spoken to him of my distresses; and he knew his brother thoroughly, and sometimes gave me his advise. On this occasion he very much condemned his conduct, especially after I had shewn him the letters, which he wrote me from Selb, in which he desired me to take care of every thing in his absence, and to prepare a snug apartment for his reception. "Give me these letters, madam," said he: "we must convince him by his own hand-writing. I promise you I shall tell him frankly the truth. All this is but a poor trick. He cannot remain two days without making some person or other uneasy; he has been so from his earliest youth, and his melancholy temperament is the cause." In fact, he shewed him so clearly that he was in the wrong, that he had not a word to say for himself; and was quite ashamed to find himself so completely detected. He gave me many assurances of affection, accompanied with Judas' kisses, for he was already thinking of a new plot against me.

As my time was at hand, I was asked to return to Bareith. I found my bed-room very well furnished, which I had had great difficulty in obtaining. This room, and one of my wains-

cotted cabinets, which I had ornamented with porcelain, gave my apartments a gay appearance.

The margrave, with the prince his brother, came to take leave of me the following day, before going to Himmelcron. The margrave told me that he thought he should not see me again till after my delivery. I answered, that I was very much mortified at his quitting me so soon ; that I knew not what Providence had decreed as to my fate ; that perhaps I took an eternal farewell of him ; that I begged him to be persuaded, that I had never harboured an intention to offend him, and that I had always endeavoured to please him, and live on good terms with him ; and that I hoped, if God should spare my life, to prove to him in future the purity of my intentions. I next endeavoured to persuade him to send some person to Berlin with the news of my delivery to the king ; and that M. de Voit, who was already instructed, would be the most proper person to execute the commission. The margrave blushed, and remained pensive for some time. “ It is quite proper,” said he, “ for him to go to Berlin, but he may spare himself the trouble of passing by Himmelcron ; for I have ordered guns to be stationed from place to place along the road, and I shall learn news of your royal

highness sooner than I could do by a courier." If your highness does not select M. de Voit, have the goodness to name the person whom I ought to send to you ; to act otherwise would be to fail in my duty, and in what I owe to you." " Among good friends," he replied, " there must be no ceremony ; I have a mortal aversion to it, and your royal highness will oblige me infinitely in sparing me this embassy. I shall order Voit to go to Berlin ; and I wish, from the bottom of my heart, to find on my return a son resembling his mother." He embraced me, and took his leave.

Prince Albert was present during this conversation. I asked him what reason the margrave had for acting in this manner, and what he would advise me to do. " He has no other motive than his caprice," answered he: " we must bear patiently with him, and since he does not wish your royal highness to send any person to him, we must yield in that to his will."

I felt ill on the evening of the 29th. I was worse on the 30th, and in great danger on the 31st. I was delivered, however, at seven o'clock in the evening of a daughter, at the time when my own life and that of my child were despaired of. I have been since told that the hereditary prince was in a state very much

to be pitied. His joy was excessive when I was delivered; he did not even enquire about the child: all his thoughts were fixed on me alone. I could not testify my gratitude to him, for I was continually fainting.

M. de Voit instantly set off for Berlin. As soon as he was out of the town a triple discharge of guns took place. The ecclesiastics came in a body to pray by my bed-side. I heard nothing, being still insensible. Although the margrave had been informed of the danger in which I was, he did not even condescend to enquire after me. I was very ill during the whole night, but in the morning I was somewhat strengthened by a little sleep.

About mid-day the hereditary prince received a note from his uncle, informing him, that the wind having been contrary, and the guns ill placed, the margrave did not know I was delivered; that he had been himself the first to carry him the news; that he knew not what had displeased his brother, but he appeared to be in a very bad humour; that he had done all that was in his power to persuade him to return to town, but he could obtain no positive assurance on that head. He arrived, however, at six o'clock in the evening. He sent first to M. de Reitzenstein, to whom he complained

bitterly of his son and me, saying that we treated him like a cypher; that we had not even condescended to inform him of my delivery; that he was the last of all his court to learn it; that his patience was exhausted by this want of respect; and that he intended by some strong measures to shew that he was still master, being resolved to send his son to Plassenbourg. "*I order you,*" continued he, "*to inform them both of this resolution.*"

Reitzenstein, more dead than alive at the rage in which he saw him, answered, that he besought him to charge some other person with this commission; that he was not hard-hearted enough to communicate such news to me in the dangerous state in which I continued, when a very slight circumstance might cost me my life; that he could not comprehend how the prince could have deserved such a punishment; and that he conjured him to weigh well what he was about to do before he proceeded to such lengths. Prince Albert, suspecting something, arrived during these proceedings: he boldly took our part. "*Good God! my dear brother,*" said he, "*I was present at the conversation which you had with her royal highness before your departure, when you absolutely prohibited her from giving you information of her delivery. At this*

she was very uneasy, but I myself advised her to conform to your wishes in that respect." The margrave was thunderstruck, not recollecting that his brother had been present at our interview: he was quite abashed, and not knowing what to say, loudly complained of his bad memory, which he said was getting worse and worse daily. He sent for the prince, whom he was desirous of receiving kindly; but his embarrassment shewed his want of sincerity. They all repaired to me. Every person remarked the constraint he underwent to speak to me in an obliging manner. He began a long *rôdomantade* about the custom of the country, which required the infant to be baptized the third day after its birth. The ceremony should therefore take place with pomp and dignity on the following morning; for, said he, the young princess, having a king for her grandfather, is entitled to more prerogatives on that account than she would otherwise have. I answered that it was in his power to give what orders he pleased; but I entreated him to permit me to remain tranquil, as I was too weak to see company, and receive their compliments. He wished me to choose the godfathers and godmothers. I refused for a long time; but when I saw he was resolute, I named the king

and queen, the empress, the Queen of Denmark, her sister, the Dowager Margravine of Culmbach, her mother, my brother, my sister Anspach, and Prince Albert. With these names he was very well satisfied, and shortly after withdrew.

On the morrow the signal for the baptism was given by kettle-drums and trumpets. The margrave, accompanied by the whole court, came to me. The Princess Charlotte, who had been returned some days, carried my daughter to be baptized: she received the sacrament under the canopy in my audience chamber. The guns were fired when the minister gave the benediction. There was a state dinner, and a ball in the evening.

Fifteen days after, Prince William, my brother-in-law, returned from his travels into France and Holland. The hereditary prince was rejoiced to see him, as he was very fond of him: his good heart naturally led him to entertain the same sentiments for all his family. He introduced him first to me. This prince, at the age of twenty, had the appearance of a boy of fourteen: his countenance was noble, but not pleasing: notwithstanding his diminutive size he was well made: his manners were as boyish as his appearance: his genius was exceedingly li-

mitted, or more properly speaking, he had none: he had studied at Utrecht without learning any thing: his volatile and inconstant mind could settle to nothing but catching butterflies: his heart was good rather from nature than from principle. The prince and myself did all we could to improve him while he remained at Bareith, but we lost our labour. He was a colonel of infantry in the service of the emperor, and was to join his regiment in Italy, and stop for some time with his uncle at Vienna.

M. de Voit returned from Berlin: he brought me the most gracious letters from the king and queen, and informed me that the king had spoken of the hereditary prince and myself in the most affectionate terms, and that there was a general rejoicing at Berlin on my delivery.

I began to taste tranquillity, when it was disturbed by a letter from the king, who ordered the hereditary prince to repair immediately to Berlin, to set out from thence for his regiment, assuring him of his friendship, and the distinguished proofs of it which he should give him. This was a thunderbolt to me. I loved the prince passionately: our union had been most happy; and I had every thing to dread from a long separation. I was afraid lest at his early age he should give himself up to debauchery,

as I knew the Prussian officers were nearly all great libertines. I had seen several very amiable princes changed after they entered the service of the king into rude and stupid debauchees. He was himself very much concerned at it. All that we could do was to get the departure put off to as distant a day as possible. However, on the second of October he was obliged to set off. As the margrave would give him no money he was obliged to borrow. My health, which I was beginning to recover, was again affected by the uneasiness which I suffered from his absence. All the family, excepting the margrave, visited me every evening, and we endeavoured to kill time together.

At length I was able to go out, and I began to prepare for my journey to Berlin, when I received a letter from the king, which plunged me into new embarrassments. He ordered me to go to Anspach. "I wish for nothing so much," said he, "as a good understanding between your two houses, which your policy, your interest, which, in short, every thing renders necessary. I am informed that my son-in-law and my daughter will be very much displeased if you fail to visit them: you must avoid and extinguish all animosity by your presence: and you will afterwards come and receive

the caresses of a father who loves you, and who will prove it to you." I sent this letter to the margrave. He answered me by M. de Voit that the advice which the king gave me was very judicious, and that he wished me to follow it.

All this was very well ; but I had no money. I had exhausted my purse for the prince, and nobody would lend me ; I resolved therefore to speak on that and several other points to the margrave. " I have learned from M. de Voit," said I, " that your highness approves of my journey to Anspach: it grieves me very much to put you to inconvenience on this occasion, but your highness knows my want of power to support such an extraordinary expence: the small revenue which I possess scarcely suffices to maintain me, which makes it impossible for me to pay the expence of this journey and that to Berlin myself; besides, I do not think I can risk carrying my child with me to Berlin, as the season is too far advanced ; neither can I abandon her to the charge of her women ; and I should wish much to have a governess for her, who in time might take care of her education." " I shall think of all that," said he ; " and I shall charge M. de Voit with my answer." It was worthy of him: he told me he was extremely mortified that he could not grant me the two articles in question ;

that there was nothing stipulated in my marriage contract for the expence of journeys which I might wish to make, nor for the support of the daughters I might bear; and that being obliged to fit out his youngest son, his finances were so much deranged that he was altogether unable to assist me.

I had several times heard from the prince, who spoke in warm terms of the kindness shewn by the king to him: he informed me that the king as well as the queen expressed a strong desire to see me, and that he was informed by every body that the king intended to do something remarkable in our favour; that he was going immediately to join his regiment, and that he would go by Rupin to visit my brother. His letters gave me some reason to hope the king would pay my expences. I applied to him, and urged him to send me money, and to inform me what I should do with my daughter. In order not to lose time, M. de Voit sent me two thousand crowns, which he borrowed in his own name.

In the mean time the margrave became unwell. Although they endeavoured to conceal the danger he was in, every body was informed of it, which occasioned me to put off my departure for some days. He refused my visits, and

would see nobody: his seclusion set us a little at our ease; for the good prince possessed the unfortunate qualification of lulling to sleep all who were obliged to listen to him by his endless moral lectures and his continual repetitions. We were indemnified, however, for his absence, by another person as tiresome as himself, the youngest of his brothers, whom I shall afterwards call the Prince of Neustadt, because that was the place of his residence.

He was colonel of a regiment in the service of Denmark, and had lately arrived from Copenhagen with the intention of marrying, as we afterwards learned. He sent notice of his arrival at Neustadt to the margrave, and informed him that in a few days he would be at Bareith. This prince was the refuse of his family: the margrave could not bear him, and was by no means impatient to see him, especially as he was then unwell. He answered him that he should be glad to see him on my return from Berlin, and when his health should be re-established. This letter was received by the Prince of Neustadt when he was within a short distance of Bareith. The roads were so bad that to return directly was impossible. His pride was mortified at this letter from his brother; and by way of revenging himself, he alighted at the post-

house, where he passed the whole night without communicating his arrival to the margrave or any of the family. The margrave sent several times requesting him to come and occupy the apartments prepared for him at the castle; but he constantly refused, alleging that he would repay his brother's harsh conduct by refusing to see him. After many messages backwards and forwards, Prince William was dispatched to him, who at length prevailed on this amiable figure to visit the margrave, and afterwards myself. I shall begin with the favourable side of his portrait. He was rather tall than otherwise, and tolerably well made: the number of maggots in his brain required a good deal of room, and accordingly there was plenty for them in his noddle, which was abundantly large. Two little pig's eyes of a pale blue colour filled very indifferently the vacuum of the head; his square mouth was a gulph, and his retreating lips displayed his gums and two rows of black and disgusting teeth; his mouth was always wide open; his triple chin served to add to his charms; a plaster heightened the beauty of the lower part of it, which was stationed there to conceal a fistula, but as it was always falling off, we had the pleasure of contemplating this object at our ease. It was said that the phy-

sicians and apothecaries had fruitlessly employed all their skill in curing it. To all those beauties must be added his carrotty locks, which hung in great disorder, and which were very much in unison with a dress in the worst taste, but so covered with gold and silver, that he was scarcely able to move with it. His mind was as well endowed as his body. His brain was disordered at times; and in his wanderings he was quite furious, and sought to kill every person. His presence brought all the family together.

At length, on the 21st of October, I set out for Anspach. I was to stop at Erlangen to see the town, and dine with the Dowager Margravine, widow of the Margrave George William. This princess made much noise in the world by her beauty and bad conduct: she was a true Messalina, and had killed several of her children by means of abortion, for the sake of preserving her fine shape. I was not very anxious to see her, and I requested the margrave to allow me to pass the night at Beiersdorf, being unwilling to sleep in a house where the most frightful irregularities prevailed.

I arrived in the evening by the most execrable roads at that small town which is quite close to Erlangen. I found there M. de Fischer, M. de Egloffstein, the head of a canton of the

immediate nobility, M. de Wildenstein, a member of the same canton, and M. de Bassewitz, lieutenant-general of the circle. These gentlemen complimented me on my arrival. M. de Fischer told me that the margrave had given him orders to receive me with the same honours which were generally paid to himself; that he had desired the margravine to treat me in a manner suited to the daughter of a king, and to yield the precedence to me: that being unable to obtain from her any promise on this head, he had given orders that a table should be set for me in the apartments allotted to me; and he advised me not to visit her, nor even to announce to her my arrival. Scarcely had he finished his discourse, when I was told that the grand-master of that princess asked to speak to me. I ordered him to be introduced: he harangued to me for a good half-hour, stammering all the while, and concluded by telling me that his mistress intended to take her coach, and come and ask me to supper. I requested, as well as I could, to be excused from the visit and the supper, on account of the fatigue of my journey. When he saw he could not prevail in that point, he invited me to dinner next day. Here M. de Fischer interfered, and told him---
“ Her royal highness will visit the margravine if

she treats her with suitable respect, otherwise she cannot have the honour of her presence." The other, a good deal disconcerted, replied, that his mistress knew too well what was due to the daughter of a great king to fail in her respect to her; and that she would pay me every honour which was in her power. I sent immediately one of the gentlemen of my suite to return my compliments to her, after which I sat down to table. During supper, M. de Fischer never ceased eulogizing my brother-in-law, and never even named the prince my husband. At this I was so piqued that I arose and took my leave of the company.

I set out on the following day at ten o'clock. I was escorted by four companies of cavalry, partly militia of Beiersdorf, and partly of Erlangen. I was accompanied by a numerous cavalcade of gentlemen, composed both of strangers and persons in employment. With this train I entered the town: the citizens and the militia lined the streets: the concourse of people desirous of seeing me was very great. At length I reached the castle: I found the margravine at the bottom of the steps with her whole court. After the first civilities on both sides were over, I ascended to my apartments, where she followed

me. This princess is well deserving of some mention.

She was by birth Princess of Saxe-Weissenfeld, and sister of Duke John Adolphus. She had been as beautiful as an angel, according to report, but she was so altered, that to discover the remains of her charms a careful examination of her countenance was requisite. She was tall, and her shape appeared to have been handsome : her countenance was very long, as well as her nose, which disfigured her very much from having been frost-bitten, which gave it a red-beet colour, very disagreeable to the sight. Her eyes, accustomed to command, were large, long, and dark, but so downcast, that their lustre was thereby very much diminished: for want of natural eye-brows, she had recourse to false ones, which were very large, and black as ink : her mouth, though large, was well-shaped, and very pleasing : her teeth, white as ivory, were very regular ; her complexion, though smooth, was yellowish, and sickly ; her air was good, but somewhat affected. She was the *Lais* of her age ; but she must have pleased alone by her figure, for as to mind, she had not even a shadow of it.

We sat down by her : the conversation was tame enough. In place of the airs which

she had displayed two days before, she now descended to an abject conduct, every moment saluting my hand, whether I would or not. Quite satisfied with the attention I paid to her, she told me she was quite charmed at having been fortunate enough to become acquainted with me; that she had been much afraid of me, having been told that I was assuming and haughty, and that I would treat her very superciliously. She introduced her pretended governante to me, (for she never had more than a borrowed one) and her two maids of honour, who were twins, very short, and so lusty that they could scarcely walk. These two bundles of flesh, while endeavouring to stoop to kiss my hand, lost their equilibrium, and tumbled on the floor, which discomposed my gravity, and that of all the nobility present. It is impossible to conceive any thing more disgusting than the court of this margravine: one could not help imagining that all the monsters of the surrounding country had, by general agreement, contrived to meet in her service; perhaps it was through good policy, wishing to set off her superannuated charms by the presence of so much deformity. The repast was at length served up; and, while it lasted, the margravine was very much embarrassed. M. de Egloff-

stein, then her favourite lover, had lectured her so well, that she durst neither eat nor speak without his permission. I returned her visit in the afternoon. I found along with her the ladies of the city, who were presented to me. After taking coffee, I wished to take my leave of her, but she insisted on accompanying me to the bottom of the stairs, telling me M. de Egloffstein had ordered her to do so, and that she conformed implicitly to his wishes. It was in vain to oppose this extravagant complaisance; I was obliged to submit to it.

As it was very late, and the roads were execrable, I was obliged to stop that night at Carlsbourg, where I found several officers belonging to the household of the Margrave of Anspach, and several gentlemen of his court, whom he had sent expressly to do me honour.

At length I arrived in the evening at Anspach, where I was received with open arms by my brother-in-law and my sister. I had every reason to be satisfied with the attention and friendship they evinced for me. During the whole time of my stay there were dinners of state. In vain I requested my sister to suppress that tedious ceremony, and to live with me as an intimate friend. Her constant answer was

that no change could take place; that every body would blame them were they to act otherwise, as the custom was universal in courts. She was then three months pregnant, which occasioned a general joy throughout the country. However, it did not make her situation more comfortable. I have already said that her education had been very bad; but this neglect might have been partly repaired if a woman of ability had been appointed her governess, for she was married at fourteen. Every thing however was spoiled by assigning her a woman from the country, for whom she never entertained any respect.

The margrave had at length grown weary of her caprices; and two unworthy favourites, the one the grand-marshal de Sekendorff, and the other a certain M. de Schenk, had complete ascendancy over him, and had plunged him into debauchery. He had lately taken a mistress of low extraction, who had lived by common prostitution. He was passionately fond of her, and his love has been constant; for he has still this creature in keeping, who has born three children to him, of whom, according to the scandalous chronicle, he is not the father. He has made his supposed son a baron under the name of Falk, which signifies Falcon, because he himself fol-

lows the employment of falconer, and even fills the lowest offices of it. He was then at irreconcilable variance with my sister, who, piqued that he should think of preferring to her an infamous wench who used to sweep the castle, made him the most bitter reproaches, which only served to increase the evil. I did what I could to reconcile them, and if I did not wholly succeed, I at least prevailed on them to avoid all eclat. As I was attentive to oblige every person, I made many friends. The margrave himself contracted a friendship with me, which has frequently been serviceable to my sister. As that prince had to go to Pommersfelde to see the Prince of Bamberg, we set out together on the 28th of October, our road being the same to Beiersdorff, where the margrave took his leave of me.

There I found the king's answer to the last letter which I wrote to him. It was in his own hand-writing, and word for word as follows:

“My dear daughter, I received your letter, and am grieved to learn that you continue to be teased, and that money is refused you for your journey. I have written a very sharp letter to the old fool your father-in-law, that he may pay your journies. Flora Sonsfeld must remain with

little Frederica, and that will save you the expence of a governess. I expect you impatiently, and am," &c.

This letter caused me the most cruel reflections : I at once saw that I had been duped by the king, and that I should be placed between two stools. The harsh things written by him to the margrave gave me great uneasiness ; for nothing but mildness and attention could possibly bring him round. The prince continued to assure me of the good intentions of the king ; he informed me that my brother took an active part in my favour, and that his old affection seemed to revive ; that the queen appeared very much disposed in our favour, and promised me every kindness in her power ; and that she even testified much joy and impatience to see me. My brother wrote me nearly in the same terms ; but the queen intirely contradicted them.

" *What brings you to this dungeon?*" said she : "*can you possibly still rely on the promises of the king after having so cruelly abandoned you? Remain at home, and spare us your continual lamentations: you ought to have looked for all that has happened.*"

The letters of Grumkow to his niece were full of disagreeable prognostics. At all this I was extremely uneasy. Nevertheless, I could not now dispense with going to Berlin, as I had only

to expect the most disagreeable effects from the letter written by the king to the margrave.

On the 29th I set out from Beiersdorff, and reached Bareith the same evening. The margrave received me very well in appearance. He asked me first if I had fixed the day on which I was to set off for Berlin. I answered, that having received no answer from the king, I had no money for the journey. He said to me with an ironical air, “ *I foresee that that will be attended with delay, and to enable you to set out, I should willingly sacrifice ten thousand florins.*” I thanked him for his kind intentions, and assured him if he would only let me have two thousand crowns I should be very much obliged to him. He next told me that two suitors had offered themselves for the Princess Charlotte, the Duke of Weissenfeld and the Prince of Usingen; that his daughter had declared herself for the second of these princes; and that he wished to have my opinion on the subject. I did what I could to persuade him; but notwithstanding all I could say he refused both the rivals, being unwilling, he said, to marry his eldest daughter before the youngest. The latter was very discontented in East Friesland. She had spoiled every thing there by her haughty behaviour and her improper conduct towards her uncle and aunt; and she wished strongly to return to Bareith, and

warmly intreated her father to send for her. The margrave however was of a different opinion, as he foresaw what would be the consequence. He was resolved if the marriage should break up that she should make the tour of Denmark before returning to Bareith, in order to prevent the noise of this rupture. Instead of the two thousand crowns for which I had asked, he sent me the following day one thousand florins, which were not even sufficient to pay the posting. To add to my misfortune, I was also obliged to go to Cobourg to visit my aunt, the Duchess of Meiningen, who had paid me a visit the summer before. It was a journey of policy ; for she had given me some hopes of becoming heiress to the immense property she possessed, and of which she was absolute mistress. This wicked princess would by that act have repaired all the evils which she had inflicted on the country and house of Culmbach, which she had totally ruined, and reduced to the sad state in which I found it.

Cobourg being only eight German miles from Bareith I went there in one day, and arrived on the evening of the third of November. I found my good aunt dressed up as usual with flowers and gewgaws. Our interview cost her old and withered breasts dearly : she gave them a double

beating in honour and glory to me, calling me a thousand times *her dear soul*. Her apartments, and those which were prepared for me, were magnificent in the extreme, both with respect to furniture and plate; every where the arms of Brandenburg were to be seen, which gave rise to very unpleasant reflections. I passed the following day in chatting and working with the dutchess, there being no nobility at Cobourg, or any other court but her own, which was very indifferent. I could obtain from her no favourable resolution: she reiterated her promises to me, but she would make no testament in my favour. I was even told secretly that she had duped me as she had many others, whom she had lured there for the sake of extorting presents from them.

I returned on the 5th to Bareith, cursing that sempiternal old woman. The margrave was again indisposed; his health had for some time been so much out of order by what he drank, which attacked his lungs and his nerves, that the faculty were very much alarmed for him. He was charmed with my choice of Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld to take charge of my girl. I had great difficulty in persuading her to accept of the task. The margrave, by whom she was very much esteemed, joined his intreaties to

mine, and she was at length persuaded to yield to our wishes. Having nothing more to detain me at Bareith, I set out on the 12th. The leave which I took of the margrave was none of the most tender: we were mutually charmed at our separation. I left M. de Voit with him to remove all umbrage. M. de Sekendorff, whom he appointed my groom; was of the suite. He was a youth of abilities, who had travelled, and could make himself agreeable in society.

The season and the roads were diabolical; however, by taking only two or three hours rest at nights, I reached Berlin on the 16th. For my sins I found the king had gone the evening before to Potsdam, and that the queen was that day at her devotions. Although she was informed of my arrival by a messenger whom I had dispatched beforehand, she pretended not to know of it. I alighted from the coach without lights: my limbs were so benumbed that I measured my length on the ground. By chance M. de Brand, grand-master of the queen, observed my accident, who had the charity to assist me to walk. Nobody came to meet me but my sisters, who received me at the door of the chamber of audience. I saw at a distance the queen in her bedroom, who appeared to be hesitating whether she should come to meet me. She at length took

this resolution, and after embracing me, she presented the prince to me, whom she had concealed. I was so overjoyed at seeing him that I at once forgot the whole of my bad reception. However, I had not time to speak to him before she took me by the hand and led me to her closet, where she threw herself on a sofa without even ordering me to be seated. Looking at me then with a severe air: "*What do you come here for?*" said she. At this commencement my blood froze within me. "*I am come,*" I replied, "*by order of the king, but principally to throw myself at the feet of a mother whom I adore, and whose absence was insupportable to me.*" "*Say rather,*" continued she, "*you come to plunge a dagger in my heart, and to convince the whole world of your folly in marrying a beggar. After such a step you ought to have remained at Bareith to conceal your shame, without publishing it here. I recommended to you to adopt that line of conduct. From the king you will derive no advantage, who repents already of the promises he made you. I foresee at once that you will continually din our ears with your distresses, which will completely exhaust my patience, and that you will be a burden to us all.*"

This discourse wrung me to the heart. I burst into tears: I dreaded the queen worse than

death ; but being once embarked, I was obliged to sail : I threw myself at her feet, and I held the most affectionate language to her. In that situation she left me to remain a full half hour. Whether she was touched with my tears, or that she wished to preserve something like appearances, she at length raised me : “ *I am willing,*” said she to me, with a contemptuous look, “ *to take compassion on you, and forget the past, provided you change your conduct for the future.*” It will be afterwards seen what she meant by that expression. With these words she left me.

At this time Madame de Pannewitz entered, who had been a great friend of mine : I ran to embrace her, and communicated to her my disaster. She made no answer, but examined me from head to foot. The other ladies, with the exception of Madame de Kamken, did the same, who told me that I ought to constrain myself ; that she would do what she could to be of service to me, and that all would change in a few days. The prince, perceiving my distress, looked at me compassionately, not being able to comprehend the sudden change of the queen. The repast was suitable to the commencement. My sister Charlotte began to attack me with the most biting satire : at every ill-natured remark she made, the queen bestowed on her a

look of approbation. To all those irritating observations I made no return; but the devil was no loser by it, for I was ready to burst with rage. My sisters, Sophia and Ulrica, told me in a whisper in passing that they still loved me, and that they had many things to tell me, but durst not then speak to me, having been prohibited by the queen. Notwithstanding all the fatigue I had that day undergone, she detained me till one o'clock in the morning.

After my retiring began our lamentations. I told the prince and Madame de Sonsfeld what reception I had met with from the queen. She told me that her own had been much the same as mine. The prince still flattered me with hopes of a change of fortune on the king's return; but, good God! how little he knew of him. I wrote to him next day, informing him of my arrival. I had, however, the consolation of receiving a letter from my brother, brought to me by M. de Knobelsdorff, his gentleman. I still tenderly loved him, and my only hope was in his friendship. My sister Charlotte also paid me a visit, or rather the prince, for she did nothing but flirt with him, without so much as noticing me. The queen received me better than the night before: she then lived in a profound retirement, not even seeing the princesses

of the blood: she had a person to read to her in the afternoon, and she spent the evening in play. I saw a number of people that day, who visited me rather for the sake of appearances than any other reason, for they made me endure many a disagreeable discourse.

On the following evening the king arrived: he received me very coldly: "*Ha, ha!*" said he, "*you are there; I am very glad to see you;*" examining me with a light. "*You are much changed,*" he continued: "*what is little Frederica about? I pity you.*" He went on, after hearing my answer: "*You had not bread to eat, and without me you would be obliged to beg! I am but a poor man myself, and unable to give you much; I shall do what I can; I shall give you daily ten or twelve florins, as my affairs will enable me, and that will always alleviate your poverty. And you, madam,*" speaking to the queen, "*you must sometimes make her a present of a dress, for the poor girl has not a chemise to her back.*" I was almost distracted at hearing myself spoken to in this language, and cursed my foolish credulity which had brought me into such a labyrinth. This pompous language was repeated the following day in the hearing of all at table. The prince was covered with blushes; he answered the king, "That a prince who possessed

such a country as his could never be reckoned a beggar ; and that his father was the sole cause of his distressed situation, who would give him nothing ; following in that the example of too many others." The king blushed in his turn, feeling the application of this remark, and changed the discourse immediately.

I had next day the pleasure of seeing my brother. He was so charmed to find me with the queen that he scarcely spoke two words to her before running to embrace me. It may be easily imagined that our interview was most affecting : we had so many things to say to one another that we knew not where to begin. I told him all my vexations : he was surprised at my reception, and told me that there must have been some secret cause, of which he was ignorant, to produce so sudden a change ; and that he would endeavour to get to the bottom of it, and would speak to Grumkow and Sekendorff in my favour, these two persons being entirely in his interests ; and that with respect to the queen, he would endeavour to make her listen to reason, having a great ascendancy over her. During all this conversation she was walking with my sister, and appeared very uneasy. We drew near to her.

At table the queen turned the conversation

on the future princess royal. “Your brother,” said she to me, looking closely at him, “is in despair at being obliged to marry her, and not unreasonably: she is a downright fool: to all that is said to her, she replies yes or no, accompanied by a foolish laugh inexpressibly displeasing.” “Oh,” said my sister Charlotte, “your majesty does not yet know half her merit. One morning I was at her toilet: I thought I should have been suffocated: she has a most insupportable smell: I should imagine that she must have at least ten or twelve ulcers, for it was extremely unnatural. I remarked also that she was deformed: her stays were stuffed on one side, and one of her hips was higher than the other.” I was astonished at this conversation, which was carried on in presence of the servants, and especially as my brother was also present. I perceived that it gave him uneasiness, and that he changed colour. He withdrew immediately after supper; I did the same. The moment after he came to see me: I asked him if he was satisfied with the king. He answered, that his situation was changing every moment; that sometimes he was in favour, and sometimes in disgrace; that his greatest happiness was in being absent; that he led an easy and tranquil life with his regiment; that reading and music

were his principal occupations there ; and that he had built a house, with a delightful garden, where he could read and walk. I asked him if the portrait which the queen and my sister had drawn of the Princess of Brunswick was faithful. “ We are alone,” he replied, “ and as I have nothing to conceal from you, I shall speak to you with sincerity. The queen, with her contemptible intrigues, is the sole cause of all our misfortunes. You had scarcely departed from us, when she renewed the connexion with England; she wished to substitute my sister Charlotte for you, and to marry her to the Prince of Wales. You may easily imagine she tried every method to carry her plan through, and to marry me to the Princess Amelia. The king was informed of this design as soon as conceived, La Ramen (who is now more in favour with her than ever) having informed him. The king was touched to the quick with these new intrigues, which have occasioned many a rupture between him and the queen. Sekendorff at length interfered, and advised the king to put an end to all these doings by concluding a marriage between me and the Princess of Brunswick. The queen is inconsolable for this misfortune, and her despair induces her to vent all her malice against this poor princess. She

required me absolutely to refuse this match; and she assures me that she is in no wise apprehensive of any fresh rupture between the king and myself; that I have only to display firmness, and she will support me. I did not wish to follow her advice, and I bluntly told her that I was unwilling to incur the resentment of my father, from which I have already but suffered too much. As to the princess, I do not hate her so much as I pretend to do: I affect to be unable to endure her, that my obedience to the king may appear in a stronger light. She is pretty: her complexion is the lilly and the rose; her features are delicate, and her whole countenance that of a fine woman. True, she has no education, and dresses badly; but I flatter myself when she comes here that you will have the goodness to form her. I recommend her to you, my dear sister, and I hope you will take her under your protection." It may easily be conceived that my answer was every thing he could desire.

The king announced to us that he had ordered a troop of German comedians. We saw this fine spectacle in the evening: nothing could be more stupid; however, he relished it so much that he engaged the troop, and whoever did not go might as well have been excommuni-

cated. The spectacle lasted four hours: we durst not move or speak without being reprimanded. The cold was excessive, and my health was very much injured by it. My brother told me he had spoken to Sekendorff and Grumkow in my favour, and that the former had requested him to procure him a secret audience with me, which he advised me by all means to consent to. "He is an excellent fellow," said he, laughing, "for he frequently sends me money, of which I am in very great want. It has occurred to me that he may also procure some for you. My galleons arrived yesterday, and I shall share them with you." In fact, he brought me 1000 crowns next day, with the assurance that he would give me still more. I refused for some time to accept them, not wishing to be burdensome to him. He shook his head and said to me, "Take them without hesitation, for the empress furnishes me with as much money as I want, and I assure you I drive the devil away from my house as soon as ever he comes to nestle there." "The empress," I replied, "must he a better exorcist then than the priests themselves." "O! yes," said he, "and I promise you she will drive away your devil as well as mine."

Although I was surrounded with the queen's spies, who informed her every instant of every

person who visited me, the prince continued notwithstanding to introduce Sekendorff secretly into my apartments. I detailed to him my present situation, both in respect to Berlin and Bareith. This minister was in high estimation with the prince my father-in-law, who reposed great confidence in him. He told me at once that he considered my situation as an evil without remedy. "I know the margrave thoroughly," said he: "he is a false, dissembling, and suspicious prince: his narrow genius is incessantly agitated with a thousand apprehensions; he has taken it into his head that they wish to force him to abdicate; and what a time it will take to drive that idea out of his mind! and supposing even that we should succeed, it will be of no service to you, for he will always contrive to find out new subjects to exercise his imagination on, and to harass you: from this quarter then you have nothing to hope. It is the same case with the king---he loves his money to idolatry, and no charms have power over him but those of his strong box. You know him, madam, and you ought to know that he is not easily governed. Grumkow and myself may do as much mischief as we please, but we have no power to do any good. It is very true the king has intervals of generosity, when one

can take advantage of his first impulse; but after that impulse is gone by, nothing more can be extracted from him. He repents of all the promises he made your royal highness at the hermitage, and only seeks for some pretext to retract them. You see then, madam, that you must arm yourself with patience, as the death of the margrave can be the only remedy to your evils: his health has always been very weak, and by his excessive drinking he cannot fail soon to kill himself: however, you have yet one resource: the empress orders me to assure you of the high esteem and affection she entertains for your royal highness, from the very advantageous account she has received of you, and that she will endeavour on all occasions to convince you of her sentiments. This princess is very much concerned to learn the aversion entertained by the prince royal for the Princess of Brunswick her niece: and she ardently wishes to see harmony prevail between these betrothed persons, flattering herself that this alliance will draw closer the ties of alliance and friendship which prevail between the houses of Austria and Prussia. Your royal highness may contribute more than any other person to effect this, from the ascendancy which you possess over the mind of the prince your brother. She recommends this be-

loved niece to you, and assures you that she will testify her gratitude by authentic proofs, and will endeavour to gratify you upon all occasions." "I am very much obliged to the empress," I replied, "for the kindness she entertains for me, and I should even have anticipated her wishes, though she had not explained them to me. My brother being betrothed, and there being, according to all appearance, no obstacles to prevent his marriage, I should think I was acting contrary to my duty if I did not endeavour to do every thing in my power to maintain a good understanding between him and his future spouse. This title is enough to induce me to have all the respect and consideration for her which is due to a person who is to be closely connected with a dear brother whom I love with so much ardour. I should wish, sir, that you could give me equally favourable views with respect to my misfortunes, under which I feel I am sinking." I broke off the conversation, with which I was far from being satisfied.

A few days afterwards my brother returned to his regiment, which filled up the measure of my distresses. The king was completely taken up with the theatre, and the numerous entertainments which were given to him. Grumkow, Sekendorff, and several generals, treated him by

turns: the most brutal intoxication prevailed. The poor hereditary prince was at all these entertainments, and the king forced him to drink whether he would or not. He treated both of us harshly, and never spoke to us except in the language of abuse. The queen, on the other hand, behaved very kindly to the prince and morosely to me. My sister, who completely governed her, jealous of the friendship which my brother had always shewn me, instigated her, and gave an unfavourable turn to every thing I said or did. She could not conceal the attachment which she bore the prince: every person perceived it; she procured him the caresses of the queen, and incessantly sung his praises. He flirted with her, affecting not to perceive the inclination she bore to him.

My fatigues and chagrins began to ruin my health. I was very uneasy with respect to that of the prince. He returned one day from one of those famous repasts, which was given by General Glasenap, paler than death, and with such a terrible shivering, that he trembled like an aspen leaf. I was very much alarmed at seeing him in this situation, and my fear was still increased by a swoon which he fell into immediately after. Though half dead myself, I instantly gave him assistance, and brought him to life. He

then told me the scene which had taken place between the king and himself. The king, contrary to his custom, had not placed him at table beside himself. Sekendorff was obliged by his orders to place himself between them. The king, addressing his discourse to Sekendorff, said loud enough for the prince to hear, "*I cannot bear my son-in-law: he is an ass. I do what I can to improve him, but all my labour is thrown away; he has not even sense enough to empty a large glass, and takes pleasure in nothing.*" The prince happened to have one which was brought him to drink the king's health in. Enraged at what he had heard---"*I could wish,*" said he aloud to Sekendorff, "*that the king was not my father-in-law: I should soon shew him that this ass of whom he speaks would make him hold a different sort of language, and that he is not a man to allow himself to be ill-used.*" At the same time he swallowed the contents of the bumper, which was almost as fatal to him as poison. The king reddened with rage; he had sufficient command over himself, however, to make no reply: he rose from table shortly after, and returned alone in his chaise, without giving the prince a place in it, who was obliged to return on foot to the castle, having no carriage. He was in such a rage, that I was apprehensive he would fall into an apoplexy.

As he was not in a state to go to the play, and I was apprehensive of new catastrophes, I excused him and myself to the queen under pretext of his being indisposed. She returned for answer, that the prince might do what he pleased, but that she would not communicate our excuses to the king, and that I must absolutely go. He would not remain alone, and we both went to that cursed play. I wore a hood to conceal my disorder, and could not refrain from weeping. The prince was so much out of order, that every person noticed it.

We retired immediately after supper. He was very ill the whole night, and insisted on returning to Bareith. I was of the same opinion, but Sekendorff and Grumkow dissuaded him, assuring him that they would speak in strong terms to the king on his account, and endeavour to operate a change in his conduct. They were not on speaking terms with one another so long as he remained at Berlin. At length the king returned to Potsdam, where we followed him in the year 1733.

The health of the prince was much disordered: he grew visibly thinner, and was afflicted with a cough, which allowed him no rest day or night. The Berlin physicians began to be apprehensive lest he should fall into a con-

sumption, which alarmed me cruelly. His stay at Potsdam only increased my alarms; the late nights and continual fatigues he endured augmented his disease. The melancholy life we led there preyed upon the spirits, as much as it was destructive to the body. We dined at mid-day. The meal was bad, and so scanty, that we could not appease our hunger. A fool seated opposite the king related to him intelligence from newspapers, on which he made political commentaries as tiresome as ridiculous. On leaving table, this prince slept in an easy chair at the side of the fire. We were all around him to hear him snore. He slept till three o'clock, when he took a ride. I was obliged to remain all the afternoon with the queen, and to read to her, which I could not support. Sarcasms and invectives were repeated without end. Hearing them so often, I ought to have accustomed myself to bear them; but my natural sensibility only made me feel them more keenly. I seldom or never saw the prince; the queen would not allow it: the slightest look I bestowed on him was a crime which I had to expiate with the most bitter sarcasms. The king returned at six o'clock, and began to paint, or rather to daub, till seven, and then he smoked. During this time the queen played at tocadille. We supped at eight

o'clock with the queen. The table was prolonged to midnight: the conversation was like the sermons of certain preachers---a remedy for sleeplessness. It was kept up principally by La Montbail, who tired us to death with her old stories and legends of the court of Hanover, which we all knew by heart. All the different situations of my life have appeared nothing to me in comparison with what I suffered then. The prince was dearer to me than all else in the world, and I saw him daily declining without having it in my power either to attend or assist him. I was ill-used on all hands: I had not a farthing, and I suffered continually. The only consolation which yet remained to me was a speedy death, at all times the last resource of the wretched. I had a perpetual nausea. I lived for two years on bread and water alone, without taking any thing except at meals, my stomach not being even able to bear broths.

The king was very much grieved on hearing the account of the death of the King of Poland. That prince died at Warsaw, where he went to assist at the diet. Grumkow saw him on the road to Frauenblatt, where he went to compliment him on the part of the King of Prussia. They had a strong debauch together with Hungary wine, which shortened the days of that

prince. He took a most tender farewell of the minister, of whom he was very fond: "*Adieu, my dear Grumkow,*" said he, "*I shall never see you more.*" Some days before the arrival of the courier, Grumkow said to the king in my presence, and that of more than forty witnesses, "Ah! sire, I am in despair, my poor patron is dead---I was awaked last night: all of a sudden the curtain of my bed opened: I saw him, he had his shroud on: he looked steadily at me. I wished to rise, being very much alarmed, but the phantom disappeared." It turned out, as chance would have it, that the King of Poland died that very night. I should suppose that Grumkow's mind being struck with the last words of that prince, had taken this dream for a reality; however, the vision made him melancholy for some time, and he only recovered his natural gaiety, with the assistance of Hungary wine.

The hereditary prince, however, becoming every moment weaker, yielded to the weight of his disease, and could no longer quit his bed. I sent for the surgeon-major of the king's regiment, who pronounced him in a fever. He undertook to excuse him to the king, to whom he gave such a picture of the danger he was in, that he was very much alarmed. The uneasiness

produced in him by this account obliged him to visit us. He appeared quite surprised that in so short a time the prince should have been so much changed. The fear which he had of his sudden death made him send an express to Berlin for the most experienced physicians. The following day I saw the whole faculty enter my chamber in procession. The prince could not refrain from laughing at the sight of those learned personages, and asked me if I wished him to be installed doctor, or to be sent to the other world. As soon as the noble faculty had examined into all the circumstances of his disease, they concluded that by means of repose, and a strict regimen, a consumption might be prevented.

I was alone with Madame de Sonsfeldt at Potsdam, having been obliged to leave the rest of my suite at Berlin by order of the king. I never quitted the prince, day nor night, except for a quarter of an hour to pay my respects to the queen and king. The latter made me a thousand caresses, and praised my assiduity towards my husband, saying that all wives ought to follow the good example which I set them. "I am very well informed," said he one afternoon to me, when I paid my respects to him, "of the cause of your husband's disease: he is chagrined at some things I said of him the day I dined

with Glasenap, and he is excessively irritated against some of my officers, who have rallied him severely by my orders. I was in the wrong, but all that I did was with the best intention, and through friendship for you and him. I wished him to relax. A young man must have vivacity and indiscretion, and not always play the Cato. My officers are all well qualified to form him."

The queen's ill-humour still continued, and she contrived to quarrel with every thing I did. When I went to her in the morning, she would say : "*Good morning, madam. Good God, what an appearance you have ! you dress your head like an idiot, and always shew that long neck. I have a hundred times told you I could not endure your awkward air ; you will at last wear out my patience.*" This was every day the burden of her song. She wished me to dress after the Berlin fashion : they wore the hair flat on the head without any curl ; mine was dressed in the French style, the hereditary prince wishing me to do so, and the whole country, with the exception of Berlin, wearing it in the same manner. I was so worn down, that I could scarcely support myself in my stays, and my stomach being always swelled, I suffered a great deal whenever I attempted to stand erect ; but all this was

considered as frivolous, and not to be listened to.

The news which I received at that time from Bareith was very satisfactory. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld informed me that the health of the margrave was visibly declining. He had gone to Neustadt to visit his hideous brother, whom I have already described, and who had then married a princess of Anhalt Schaumbourg. The margrave was at enormous expences during his stay at Neustadt: he passed whole days in drinking and diversion. He had a terrible fall when intoxicated, having tumbled down a staircase: he was carried up to his apartment half dead. I know not wheth̄er he received any internal injury, as the physicians about him were so ignorant, that no reliance could be placed on their account. Whether from the fall, or the drinking, one of them at least occasioned him so terrible a loss of blood from hemorrhoids, that his dissolution was looked for. An ecclesiastic was even sent for to pray with him, and prepare him for death; but his constitution still saved him, and he recovered, though slowly.

From thenceforward every person sighed for our return. The margrave wished it himself, and wrote to me to inform him in what manner he ought to proceed in bringing us back to Ba-

reith. I shewed his letter to several persons, because I was certain they would communicate it to the king ; and I told them all that I have now related. Accordingly, it came to the king's ears. He was unwilling to lose us, and yet he was not disposed to use us well. However, he endeavoured to gain us over that we might give up all idea of leaving him. He made me a thousand caresses, and spoke to me in warm terms of the hereditary prince, but all had no effect on me ; I had been but too often deceived to be any longer his dupe. The king did not enjoy good health ; his appearance was much changed, and he was subject to swellings at night. One afternoon, when he was sleeping, and we were sitting round him, he was seized with a suffocation. As he always snored very loud, we were not at first sensible of it. I was the first to remark that he was becoming black, and that his face was swelled. I cried out to the queen : she shook him several times, to awake him, but in vain. I ran out to call people : his cravat was cut, and we threw water in his face, which at length brought him gradually to himself. He was very much cast down by this accident, but all his physicians, to ingratiate themselves with him, treated it as a bagatelle, although in reality he was in a very dangerous

state, and every one whispered that it was occasioned by the flying upwards of the gout, which might be of the most dangerous consequence to him.

The fine season, when all nature revives, and wears the appearance of joy, was only a new torment to us : we were obliged to go every evening to the king's garden. He had given the name of *Marli* to it, I know not why. It was a very good kitchen garden, where the king took delight in collecting all the best sorts of fruit in Europe ; but there was no pleasure in walking in it, as there was not the least shade. We went at three o'clock to be broiled in the shade of M. de Vendome. We supped at eight very frugally, without loading our stomachs, and retired at nine. The king rose every day at four in the morning, to be present at the exercise of his regiment. This exercise passed under my windows, and as I lodged on the ground-floor, I could not close my eyes the whole night for the firing by divisions and platoons. A soldier having loaded too quick, and not having time to draw the ramrod out of his musket, the shot entered my room, and threw down my dressing glass, which, by the most singular chance, remained completely uninjured.

I supported all these fatigues with patience.

The return of the hereditary prince gave me too great joy to think of any thing else. He arrived on the 21st of May, at Potsdam, accompanied by my brother. I had the satisfaction to find him look much better than when he set out ; but his cough still continued, though a good deal diminished. The king received him very well, and was very much satisfied with the report he gave of his regiment. The Margravine Albertine, her daughter, and the Prince of Bernbourg, arrived the same evening : the nuptials of the latter were fixed for next day. The Princess Albertine was in a state of perfect content, and did nothing but laugh when they spoke to her of her future husband. She had two ladies who were her echoes : the prince gave the signal by a loud laugh, the two ladies answered, and that appeared so comical to us, that we also laughed, so that there was nothing but laughing. The king, who liked to torment the bride, said many immodest things to her, at all which she only laughed, and drew upon herself and us a number of silly and indelicate remarks. I exhausted myself in telling her to assume a serious air : but my pains were lost, for her joy was so great at having so amiable a husband that she could not contain it.

The hereditary Prince, and Prince Charles

of Brunswick, whom the king had also invited to the wedding, went next day to visit the Prince of Bernbourg, less through civility than for the sake of diversion. He was the only person who was ignorant that he was to be married in the evening; his absence of mind, or his want of memory, had driven it out of his head. He swore like a porter, that he had neither dress nor robe de chambre, and that the wedding must be put off to another day. The king enjoyed this highly. The hereditary prince was obliged to lend him his robe de chambre: he was so grateful for it, that he asked his advice as to every thing he should do. God knows in what charitable hands he fell, and the advice he got! I only know that I never saw any thing more comical than the nuptials.---There was a ball for three successive days, when our mirth was beyond bounds; but this joy was soon dissipated, for the hereditary prince was obliged to return to his regiment. He set out on the twenty-seventh of May, along with my brother and all the other princes.

The king had been very much pleased with the hereditary prince: he told me he found him much changed for the better. "He shall be my favourite son-in-law," he added; and addressing his discourse to the queen: "I love my

children too well: may the devil take me if I don't give my son-in-law all the money I have lent him, provided he continues to act as he now does." I drew near to him, and taking his hand, which I kissed, I thanked him in the most affectionate terms; and as he repeated to me what he had been telling the queen, I said to him it would distress me very much to think that he should imagine our conduct anywise influenced by motives of interest: that it was true we required his assistance, but we did not wish to be a burden to him, and that if I knew the promise he made me would incommode him the least in the world, I would be the first to refuse the favour. The tears came into his eyes, and looking tenderly at me:---"No, my dear girl," said he, "I can never allow you to leave me, and I shall take care of you as long as I breathe." I was affected by these last expressions, but this served to alarm me much: I knew too well the inconstancy of the king to place any reliance on those magnificent promises: however, they affected me. I loved him tenderly, and had it not been for the jealousy which the queen entertained of me, I should have recovered his heart; but it was impossible to be well with the one without breaking with the other. She made me pay dear for this moment of enjoyment, and did no-

thing but scold me from morning to evening. I could never thoroughly understand an intrigue then set on foot against the hereditary prince and myself: I know not yet the author of it; but I know well that at this time every thing was done to sow dissension between us. The most infamous things were told me of him, whilst he heard reports equally bad of me:---But all made no impression on us, and we communicated to each other what we knew of these fine contrivances.

One day the king said to me: "I have a plan for settling you here. I shall give your husband a pension, that he may be enabled to keep house conveniently: he shall remain at Basewaldt, where you may go to see him from time to time, for if you were to be always with him he would neglect the service." It may be easily judged how I relished the plan: however, I did not wish to have a downright quarrel with the king, and merely told him that I should always encourage the hereditary prince to do his duty. The king perceived that his ideas did not please me, and he changed the discourse. As he was to set out with the queen on the eighth of June for Brunswick, to be present at the marriage of my brother, which was to be celebrated there, I asked his permission to join the hereditary

prince at his regiment. At first he granted it, but after musing for some time, he said to me : “ It is not worth your while to make the journey ; I shall be back in eight days, and I will then send for him.”

I was quite petrified at this answer, and dreaded Berlin beyond every thing. I expected to receive fresh disgusts there, and the queen took care that I should, having prohibited my sisters from seeing me, and having given the same orders to her ladies. All these things agitated me so much that I was so indisposed in the evening as to be obliged to withdraw. I threw myself immediately on the bed, where I fell asleep from weakness and fatigue. I had not slept more than three hours when I heard an alarming noise in my wardrobe. I awoke suddenly, and opening my curtain I called on my good and faithful Merman, the companion of all my troubles, who never quitted me. I bawled as loud as I could, but nobody came, and the noise increased. But how great was my alarm when I saw the door open, and by the light of a lamp which burned in my room I perceived a dozen grenadiers tall as giants, with black mustachios and glittering arms. I gave myself up for lost, and supposed they came to arrest me. I examined myself to know what crime I had been guilty of, but I

could discover nothing criminal in my conduct. My alarm was at length dispelled by my waiting-maid, who entering my room, told me that she could not come sooner, having been endeavouring to prevent the entrance of the soldiers, and that the disturbance proceeded from the castle being on fire. I asked her in what quarter the fire was: she hesitated for some time, but at length told me in the apartments of my sisters, whose servants would not allow any one to enter, alleging the fire was in my room. On the first alarm my governante made her appearance, and by amusing the officers, gave me sufficient time to dress myself. My room was minutely examined, when every thing was found in the best order, and not the smallest appearance of fire: they passed on to that of my sisters, the next to mine, which they found in flames; the beds already half consumed, and the wainscoting every where on fire. By their efforts the flames were at last extinguished, and they went to make their report to the king. He was excessively rigid with respect to such accidents, and whether the servants were innocent or guilty, they were all discharged without mercy.

Had the accident happened in my room I should have been in a fine situation. On the first alarm some person had been kind enough

to tell the king that it was so, and he made a great noise about it; but when he learned that it was in that of my sisters he assumed a milder tone. My sisters burst into my apartment greatly terrified, crying for mercy, not knowing where to lie down. I offered to share my bed with my sister Charlotte; and the two others were accommodated in that of the hereditary prince. La Montbail was obliged to put up with a couch, at which she grumbled mightily, not between her teeth, for she had had none for many a-day, with the exception of one with which she played on the spinnet. I expected every moment that we should be assailed by this worn-out dental relic, for she could by no means be consoled for the want of a feather-bed to cherish her old bones on. My sister fell asleep immediately, but from being unaccustomed to sleep two in a bed she made me start up half asleep from the blows she gave me in making room. I returned them, which set us both a laughing, and we scarcely closed our eyes before the battle was renewed: my too youngest sisters carried on the same game. When we saw that it was impossible for us to sleep, we called the servants and ordered breakfast.

La Montbail, anxious to be the ornament of it, appeared before us like the rising sun, her

dishabille and her complexion being of the same jonquil hue. She sung out to us the sufferings which she had endured the whole night through, complaining that every rib in her body was sore from her uncomfortable bed. I felt a malicious joy at this trifling mortification of her's; for every day she contrived to bring them on me by dozens, by the pains she incessantly took to excite the queen and my sister Charlotte against me. The latter had great difficulty in obtaining pardon for her servants from the king. He told me I had displayed great kindness in putting myself to such inconvenience the whole night for the sake of my sisters. We related our nocturnal adventures, at which he laughed heartily. He was to set out next day with the queen. This princess was in a deep melancholy, and so changed in appearance that it was painful to look at her; but her ill-humour prevented all compassion, for she became almost as tyrannical as the king, and nobody could bear with her, not even my sister. My brother arrived in the evening: with me he appeared in very good humour; but when he saw himself observed by any one, he changed countenance, and assumed a sad appearance. We all separated next day, and I returned with my sisters to Berlin.

The king had ordered us to go every night to the German Theatre, at which we were heartily enraged. The princesses of the blood, whose friendship I had always experienced, came there in compliment to me, and I conversed with them without concerning myself with the play, which, indeed, was of the most contemptible description. The Margravine Philippe invited me frequently to supper. I enjoyed much entertainment at her house, where we had a small party possessed of wit and talents, which rendered our suppers extremely agreeable. I avoided as much as possible all intimacies from which I might expect any unpleasant consequences, and in this way I passed my time peaceably enough at Berlin.

Sastot, the queen's chamberlain, came to sup with me. Although an intimate friend of Grumkow's, he was a very worthy man, and was very much attached to me: his talents were not of the first rate, but he had a great deal of good sense. I communicated all my chagrins to him, and my resolution at all hazards to return to Bareith, after the review of the hereditary prince's regiment. He then told me that Grumkow had instructed him to inform me that he had shortly before received a letter from the hereditary prince, expressive of the same sentiments, and

even of a wish to throw up his Prussian regiment; that Grumkow had communicated this circumstance to the king, and told him how much we were dissatisfied with his proceedings towards us; that the king was very much surprised, and after reflecting a short time, said, "I cannot bring myself to allow my daughter and son-in-law to leave me; I shall give him a pension of twenty thousand crowns after the review, on condition of his remaining with the regiment; and as for my daughter, she shall remain with her mother, and may visit him from time to time;" that Grumkow, not knowing our intentions, had returned no answer; but that he requested me to communicate to him how he ought to act. I made Sastot the bearer of a very obliging compliment to that minister; and I requested him to act in such a manner as to enable us to depart: I told him my health was ruined; that I was worn out with fatigue and uneasiness; and that I would not consent to live separate from the hereditary prince; that it was suitable to neither of us to bury ourselves in a garrison; and that the margrave was declining hourly, and our presence became necessary at Bareith.

Next day Sastot brought me his answer: he assured me that he would employ every means

to enable us to depart, but that it was necessary for the margrave to take some steps for that purpose, and that we must begin with informing the king of his illness. He told me also that the assembly of the States of Cleves had some time ago sent deputies to the king, requesting to have me for their governor, and offering to maintain me at their own expence, without costing the king one farthing; but that the king had dismissed them with a sharp reprimand, and prohibited them, on pain of punishment, ever to return with similar propositions to him. I was very uneasy at the trouble into which these good people had brought themselves through their love of me. If I had had the smallest suspicion of their intentions, I should have prevented them, as I could not but be aware of the king's refusal.

I was impatient to hear from Brunswick, and to know what was going on there: my brother took care to inform me, by dispatching M. de Kaiserling, then his favourite, to me. He told me my brother was quite satisfied with his situation; that he had acted his part very well on the day of the marriage, which was celebrated on the 12th of June, affecting to be in a terrible ill-humour, and scolding his servants in presence of the king; that the king several

times reprimanded him, and appeared to be very thoughtful; that the queen was enthusiastically fond of the court of Brunswick, but could not endure the princess royal, and treated the two duchesses in the most disrespectful manner; and that the reigning duchess intended to complain of this conduct to the king, and was with much difficulty prevented. In the evening I also received a most obliging letter from the king. He ordered me to go next day with my sisters to Potsdam, where he assured me I should soon see the hereditary prince. The last part of it gave me the most lively joy, and I set out in high spirits for Potsdam.

The king arrived there before the queen. He told me he was charmed with his daughter-in-law, and wished me to contract a friendship with her; that she was a good child, but still in want of education. "You must be very indifferently lodged," he continued; "for I can only give you two rooms, and you must arrange the matter with your margrave, your sister, and your whole suite." The queen, who then entered, broke up the conversation. She received me well enough, and said to my sister, embracing her: "I congratulate you, my dear Lottine; you will be very happy, for you are to have a magnificent court, and every pleasure you can

possibly desire." She then told me that my brother could not endure the princess-royal; that the marriage was not yet consummated; and that she was more stupid than ever, notwithstanding all the pains taken with her by Madame Katch, her tall governess. "She will please you at the first look," said she, "for her countenance is charming; but then she is insupportable after the first moment." She began next to laugh at the king's admirable arrangement with respect to our lodging, and asked us how we should manage. My sister told her the king might give orders as he pleased, but it was impossible for us all to be accommodated together. In fact, nobody ever before dreamed of such a thing. The two rooms allotted us were not separated, the one being only a small closet. My sister and I set about our little arrangements: I allowed her the closet for herself and her woman, and by means of screens I made a complete apartment of my room. We were in all ten persons, including the hereditary prince and our servants. My governess, who had long been very much indisposed, fell all of a sudden dangerously ill of an inflammation in the throat, accompanied with a violent fever. I was very much alarmed at it, and the more so as I had no person about me.

I expected the hereditary prince in two days; and the princess royal, the Duke and Duchess of Brunswick, and the Duke and Duchess of Beven, with their son, were to arrive on the 22nd of June. The queen gave me a terrible picture of the Duchess of Brunswick. This princess was the empress's mother, and in this quality pretended to honours and distinctions which she had no right to exact. She was insupportably proud, and wished to take precedence of the princess royal. The queen told me if I did not take measures beforehand, I should have a good deal of uneasiness with her.

I was very much embarrassed. The king lived like a country gentleman, and would not allow even a shadow of ceremony in his house. He treated my sisters like girls of the house; and wished them to do the honours, having a rooted aversion to all disputes about rank. They gave way to all foreign princesses who visited Berlin. I knew that it was a difficult string to touch, and one that might occasion me a good deal of trouble; but I knew also that if I once gave up my prerogative of king's daughter, I should never be able to recover it. After a good deal of reflection, I resolved to break the ice, and speak on the subject to the king. The

queen promised to support me with all her power.

The queen, with my brothers and sisters, wished him always good night, and staid with him till he fell asleep. After my marriage I had dispensed with this practice; but as the king was generally good-humoured in the evening, I proposed to take that time to speak to him. When he saw me, he said, "What! are you come also to see me?" I told him I had just received a letter from the hereditary prince, who assured him of his respect, and wished to know whether he was to repair to Potsdam or Berlin. He said to me, "I am going to-morrow to Berlin: tell him to be there, and I shall bring you in the evening. I am very well pleased with him: he has put his regiment in the best order in the world, and I know he rests neither day nor night for disciplining them." This beginning somewhat encouraged me. I turned the conversation incessantly to the Brunswick family, and at length asked him how I was to behave with them, as I wished to do nothing without his orders, and I knew the Duchess of Brunswick would dispute my precedence. The king answered, "That would be ridiculous enough; she will do no such thing." "By no means," said the queen, "she required it of

the princess-royal, and I gave her a sharp reprimand on the subject." "She is an old fool," said the king; "but we must bear with her, as she is the empress's mother:" and addressing himself to me, "You will not visit her till she visits you, and you will every where precede her; but I shall order lots to be drawn every day, that she may not be altogether indisposed." I was greatly charmed at having so happily extricated myself from this embarrassment, and returned to my apartment.

I had at length the pleasure of seeing the hereditary prince, which banished all my trouble. He told me that his uncle the Prince of Culmbach would arrive in a few days. The king had invited him to Berlin, and I was in great joy at the prospect of seeing him, hoping by his assistance, and the ascendancy he had over the mind of his brother, we should be enabled to get free from our slavery.

The whole court of Brunswick arrived on the 24th of June. The king, accompanied by my brother, the hereditary prince, and a numerous suite of generals and officers, went on horseback to meet the princess-royal. The queen, my sisters, and myself, received her at the door. I shall describe her as she then appeared, for she is now very much altered.

She was tall, but her figure was not delicate, and she threw her body forward in an awkward manner. She was dazzlingly fair, and her fairness was heightened by the most vivid colours: her eyes were of a pale blue, and gave no great indication of talents: her mouth was small; her whole features were pretty without being beautiful, and the general appearance of her countenance was so charming and infantine, that one would have supposed it was the head of a child of twelve years old; her hair was light, and curled naturally; but all these charms were disfigured by her teeth, which were black and irregular: she was totally without manners, and had no little endearing arts: she had the greatest difficulty in speaking so as to be understood, and her meaning was always to be guessed at, which was the occasion of no small embarrassment.

The king conducted her to the queen's apartments, and after she had saluted us all, seeing her very much heated and out of order, he told my brother to shew her to her apartments. I followed him: my brother, introducing me to her, said, "This is a sister whom I adore, and to whom I am under every possible obligation: she has been kind enough to promise to take care of you, and assist you with her good advice; and

I wish you to respect her more than either the king or queen, and not to take the smallest step without consulting her---you understand me." I embraced the princess royal, and gave her every possible assurance of my attachment; but she stood like a statue, without saying a single word. As her servants had not yet arrived, I powdered her afresh myself, and put her dress somewhat to rights, without so much as her thanking me, or answering a syllable to all my caresses. My brother grew at length impatient, and said quite loud, "*Deuce take the idiot! why don't you thank my sister!?*" At last she made me such a courtsey as Agness in the *School for Wives*. I reconducted her to the queen, by no means satisfied with her understanding.

I found the two duchesses with her. The Duchess of Brunswick might be about fifty, but from her looks she would not have been taken for more than forty. She had a good deal of wit and knowledge of the world; but there was a certain air of coquetry in her whole behaviour, which evidently showed she had been no Lucretia. At that time M. de Stoekin was her lover. It was difficult to conceive how a princess of her penetration could place her inclinations so unworthily; for I never saw a more silly and insupportable person in my life than the gentle-

man in question. The duke her husband was much such another; he had paid dear for the pleasures of the Cytherean goddess: he was then without a nose. My brother used to say jocularly that he lost it in a battle against the French. To many other good qualities, he added that of being an excellent husband. He knew the conduct of the duchess, but suffered it patiently, and had all the respect and kindness imaginable for her. It was said she had him so much under command, that he was obliged to make her very considerable presents whenever he wished to sleep with her. Her daughter, the Duchess of Bevern, and myself, were overjoyed to see one another. I was intimately connected with her and her husband, as I have already mentioned. We drew lots, and sat down to a large table of forty covers. The king regaled us with a species of janizary music, executed by upwards of fifty negroes. Their instruments consisted of long trumpets, small kettle-drums, and plates of a certain metal, which they struck against one another. The whole made a most villainous noise. On leaving table, we took coffee with the queen, and the king next took us to his glass-work. The princess royal never quitted me for a moment; but I could not draw one word from her. The king made us all presents. We

returned to the queen, and passed the evening at play.

Next day, the 25th of June, we all went at six in the morning to see the review of the king's regiment. We returned to town about mid-day, and immediately sat down to dinner. The king set out after dinner with the hereditary prince and myself for Berlin, and our princely females went to Charlottenburg. The queen was in one coach with the two duchesses and the old Duke of Brunswick, and the princess royal, my sister, and myself, were in another. The heat was excessive, and the dust exceedingly inconvenient. The princess royal was sick, and internally disordered during the whole of the way. Every person rejoiced at this but the queen, for the sickness it was hoped proceeded from a good cause.

We arrived at length at eight in the evening at Charlottenburg, where I was glad to find my attendants. The princess royal was conveyed to bed, and we sat down to table. M. de Eversman, whose business it was to regulate our lodging, was kind enough to accommodate me in such a manner that I was obliged to cross the court of the castle on foot every time I went to the queen. I was very much displeased at this piece of malice, as all the ladies

in attendance on the duchesses were lodged in the best apartments, and mine was the worst of the whole. The queen had been better disposed towards me since her return from Brunswick; but her bad treatment recommenced, and she said a thousand offensive things to me during supper, and bestowed on me the most insulting looks.

On the following day the Duchess of Brunswick paid me her first visit; when she made a number of excuses for not having sooner done so. We went together to the queen's, who told us she should have but one meal for that day, and that we must all retire at an early hour to enable us to be ready for the entrance of the princess royal on the day following: she ordered music, and we danced the whole afternoon till ten in the evening. I flattered myself, but in vain, that we should be surprised by a visit from the hereditary prince, but the king had never granted him permission. He remained at Berlin, by no means enchanted with his situation; and although he was in the practice of supping, the king had not ordered the smallest preparation for him, even butter and cheese having been refused him; our ball, therefore, was not very animated. I was merely a spectatress, being unable to dance from my

extreme weakness. The queen took leave of her princely guests at nine, and retired to her bed-room. She invited my sister and myself to sup with her: I answered I was not hungry, and I should retire to my bed with her permission. She looked obliquely at me, without uttering a word. Our orders were to be ready at three in the morning to see the great review: we were all to be in our best attire, and we had very little remaining time to sleep. I requested Madame de Kamken to procure my excuse, as I was worn out with fatigue; but she advised me to remain, as the queen was disposed to sup: I was therefore obliged to stay, and we sat down to table four in number. The queen did nothing but exclaim against the whole House of Brunswick and myself: she exhausted the language of invectives against the princess royal and her mother. My sister re-echoed her, and did not even spare Prince Charles. This sweet repast lasted till midnight; but the conclusion was worthy of the rest. "We are all block-heads," cried the queen all of a sudden, fixing her looks on me: "we are speaking here with too much freedom before suspected persons, and the whole gang will be informed to-morrow of our conversation. I know I am surrounded by spies, who are on good terms with my ene-

mies ; but I shall find means of bringing them back to their duty. Good evening, madam," she continued, addressing herself to me ; " don't fail to be ready at three o'clock, for I am not in a humour to wait for you." I retired without saying a word : what I had heard enraged me beyond expression ; for I was perfectly well aware that the suspected persons and spies were no other than my precious self.

I withdrew to my room, where I found my good governess, who began to recover, with La Marwitz, her niece. I communicated to them the agreeable evening I had passed. I wept bitterly ; I wished to appear indisposed, and keep my room ; but they found means to tranquillize and prevent me. It was then so late that I had only time to dress myself, and I appeared before three o'clock in full dress at the queen's apartment. It may easily be supposed that I had a free entrance there ; it was, however, then refused me. La Ramen with a consequential air stopt me at the room-door. " Good God, madam," said she, " is it you ! What, so soon ready ! The queen is just awoke, and has ordered me to let nobody enter : I shall let you know when you may come." I kept walking in the gallery with my ladies till she should be ready. The two duchesses came immediately

after. The Duchess of Bevern looking affectionately at me, said, "You seem uneasy; you must surely have been crying." "It is very true," I replied: "I hope their wishes will soon be gratified, and that death will free me from my distresses, for I can no longer drag myself about, and I feel myself daily declining. You have an ascendancy over Sken-dorff as well as over the king; for the love of God get me removed from this place, and contrive to let me die in peace at Bareith." "I shall do all I can to satisfy you, madam," said the good duchess: "although you did not explain yourself, I know all that passed last night, and I shall even name my author, the Princess Charlotte." I was struck at this. "You seem surprised," she continued, "but I am not so. I shall have a daughter-in-law, who will keep us in sufficient employment. My son knows her as well as myself, but he knows how to discipline her." Here we were interrupted by the queen, who entered the room, accompanied by my sister and the princess royal, who had not been refused admission like myself. After saluting the duchesses, she said, eying me askance, "You have had a long sleep, madam: one would suppose you might awake as early as myself." "I have been here since three,"

said I: "La Ramen knows it: she would not let me enter." "She did very right," said she: "you are more in your place with the duchesses than with me." So saying, she entered a sort of small chariot with the princess royal: I entered a state coach with my sister; the two duchesses occupied another, and all the princes and gentlemen of the court went on horseback.

We were a full hour before arriving at the rendezvous: the heat was excessive. About a dozen tents of common linen were pitched, capable of holding five persons each. These tents were intended for the queen, the princesses, and all the ladies of the city and the court: more than eighty coaches full of ladies were in our train. The equipages were all magnificent: people ruined themselves to shine that day. We passed in order before the troops to the number of twenty-two thousand men, drawn up in battle array. The king was at the entrance of the tent prepared for the queen: he crowded us all in such a manner that some were obliged to stand, while the others were sitting or lying on the ground. The sun darted through the thin linen, and we were buried under the weight of our dresses: with all this there was not the smallest refreshment. I stretched myself on the ground at the bottom

of the tent, and the other ladies, who were all before me, defended me somewhat from the sun. In this attitude I remained from five in the morning till three in the afternoon, when we prepared for returning. We went step by step, so that we alighted only at five in the evening at the castle, without having had so much as a drop of water.

We immediately sat down to table with all the princes. The king came towards the end of the repast: he was very good-humoured, and somewhat intoxicated, having treated all the generals and colonels of the army. We rose from table at nine o'clock, and after taking coffee we moved off in our coaches in the same order as we came, to conduct the princess royal to her palace. We remained there till eleven, after which every one withdrew.

We received orders from the queen to be all dressed at eight next morning to go with the king to the dedication of St. Peter's church. I could not be of this party, having been on the point of death the whole night through, and continuing so ill in the morning that I could not move. I sent an excuse to the queen: she sent la Ramen to tell me to go at all hazards; that I was always afflicted with some imaginary disease, and that she would take no excuse.

I told this woman to assure the queen that I was really so ill as to be unable to quit my bed; that I should send an excuse to the king; and that I was persuaded he would not take my keeping my room amiss. However, I sent Grumkow to the queen: she was a bold girl, and knew how to use her tongue. The queen paid some respect to her, on account of her uncle. I gave her her cue. When the queen saw her, "Good morning, Grumkow: well, I suppose my daughter has her whims to-day; she refuses to stir, and gives herself airs of remaining in her room at her ease, while I, who am above her, am obliged to toil myself." "Madam," said Grumkow, "your majesty is unjust towards her: her royal highness has been long indisposed; her health is very much injured; she is unable to bear fatigue. All last night she has been very ill indeed, and I don't know whether she will be able to pay her respects to-morrow to your majesty." "To-morrow," said the queen, "to-morrow! You must be dreaming. People must learn to bear with things in this world: she must go; and tell her from me that I order her." "Upon my word, madam," said Grumkow, "I shall do no such thing: the margravine, if she is wise, ought to return as soon as she can to Bareith,

where she will be at her ease, and not treated as she is here." The queen was a little disconcerted at this bold answer, and made no reply. I had sent an excuse to the king: he immediately sent to inquire after me, and requested me to take care of my health, and, if possible, avoid being unwell at my sister's marriage. On sitting down to table, he also asked the hereditary prince how I was: every person told him I was in a very bad situation. The Duchess of Bevern confirmed the account, and told him if I was not seriously attended to, I had every appearance of paying an early visit to the other world. He appeared affected at this; but the queen was like to burst with rage at finding no person of her opinion. I left my room the following day: the queen said nothing to me, but she appeared very sullen. In the evening we had a German play.

The Prince of Culmbach, who had visited me on his arrival at Berlin, was by no means satisfied with his reception from the king: I did what I could to appease him. The king had invited him to Berlin, and he expected to be well received: I promised to endeavour all I could to make his situation more agreeable, but I reckoned without my host. Lots continued to be drawn at dinner and supper; and all

the princes and princesses, both of the blood and foreign, went in the morning to the queen's, and dined with the king without invitation. The Prince of Culmbach appeared the following day with the rest. M. de Schlippenbach, who acted as grand-marshal, came to him with a pitiful look, and told him he was extremely sorry to be obliged to inform him that the king had prohibited him from inviting him to dinner, and allowing him to draw; and that he wished to inform him of this before hand, that he might know how to act. The Prince de Culmbach, enraged at this affront put upon him, complained to my governess, who immediately told me of it. I was quite grieved. Besides my esteem for the Prince of Culmbach, this impertinent behaviour towards him fell on us all; however it was not then a time for complaints and representations, and the poor prince was obliged to withdraw without eating. He sat down in my anti-chamber, where I found him. Both he and the hereditary prince were indignant at the affront, and wished to depart that instant, and I had much difficulty to appease them. I promised the Prince of Culmbach he should obtain satisfaction. General Marwitz was at Berlin: I sent for him, and requested him to adjust this business. He spoke in such

warm terms to the king, that next day he sent an excuse to the Prince of Culmbach pretending that it arose through a mistake.

The only amusement given to all these foreign princes was the German theatre, where no person could keep from sleeping; the Duchess of Bevern, the hereditary prince, Prince Charles and myself, took care to place ourselves always in a situation where we could not be seen by the king and queen, and where we could converse together. I always went to this accursed spectacle with the Duchess of Brunswick; she would not accompany the queen, being unwilling to give precedency to the princess royal; and she contrived always to get before me and seat herself on the right side of the coach. I am not haughty or quarrelsome, but I wish always to receive my due; and when I am aware of any deficiency in this respect I know how to act as well as most people. For some days I was patient enough to take no notice of this; but I grew tired at last, and I seized my time so opportunily, that I got in before her, and took the right side. I never saw a woman in such a rage in my life: she reddened all over, and was within a little of flying at me like a fury: she swelled with rage, and after giving vent to some unintelligible expressions of an offensive nature, "I

am not in my proper place," said she ; " but that is the least of my cares." " Neither am I, madam," said I ; " and in my mind nothing can be more ridiculous than to see people wish to assume distinctions which they have no right to, except the folly of not defending the rights we are entitled to." Having said this much I naturally wished to secure my head-dress in the strong apprehension that she would offer me violence. Fortunately, however, the carriage stopt, and she alighted, muttering all the while.

I related this adventure to the queen on my entrance : she was so delighted with it that she forgot her sullenness : she approved highly of my proceedings, and promised to put her in a violent rage in the evening. This princess was detested by every person on account of her haughtiness. Lest those ladies who visited her should be tempted to sit down in her room, she caused all the seats to be removed : the queen on the other hand allowed every person to be seated in the first anti-chamber. The ladies of the court and the city were so shocked at this treatment that they refused to visit the duchess. She brought herself into another ridiculous situation a few days afterwards.

We were all at the play. The theatre had been formerly a riding-school : there were but two

outlets ; that by which we entered led through a stable which we had to cross, and from which we entered into a small corridor so narrow that a single person could hardly pass along. The king placed himself at the door, so that we all passed in review before him. I placed myself in a remote part of the box with my small party already mentioned. Before the piece was well begun a terrible storm arose : the lightning flashed in all directions, and the whole theatre appeared as if on flames : a clap of thunder with a frightful noise succeeded the lightning : every person in the theatre prostrated themselves in the belief that the thunder had fallen in the middle of the theatre : the next moment terrible cries were heard, and word was brought the king that the thunder had burst in the stable. The king being near the door, departed immediately with the queen and the princess royal ; but they were scarcely out before every person rushed into the corridor, so that my sisters, the Duchess of Bevern, the hereditary prince, Prince Charles, and myself, could not get out. The old Duchess of Brunswick did all she could to save herself, but in vain. She waited long in hopes that the crowd would decrease ; but beginning to fear for our lives, we resolved to make a bold effort to pass. The hereditary prince and Prince

Charles cleared a way for us by dint of vigorous fisticuffs. The rain was so heavy that the water came down like a delugé from heaven. I entered a coach with my three sisters and the Duchess of Bevern; that of the Duchess of Brunswick, by the care of the two princes and her dear Mr. Stoecken, had got clear of the crowd and followed us: she entered it with the duke her husband: the two princes wished also to enter, but she had the impertinence to tell them that they were yet young people, that the rain would do them no harm, and that she wished to have M. Stoecken in her coach. The two princes did not forgive the insult, and uttered the most bitter railleries against her, which highly entertained the public; for though Prince Charles was her grandson, he did not spare her more than the hereditary prince.

I have already said that the king had been for some time indisposed, and that the physicians took his disease for the gout, which had flown upwards. Our alarms for him were now at an end; for this day he was seized with the gout in his right hand: he suffered a good deal, but we were very glad to see his disease take such a course.

The following day, the 2nd of July, was fixed for the marriage of my sister. They all

repaired to the king's apartments, where my sister made her renunciation. We went next to the queen's to dine. The king had gone to bed; he sent after dinner for the queen, my sister, and myself; we took seats, and ranged ourselves around her bed. My sister had a sorrowful appearance. The queen, the day before, in a conversation with her, had confided to her the anguish she felt at seeing all her hopes ruined. "My dear Charlotte," said she, "my heart bleeds when I think that you are to be sacrificed to-morrow: my intentions I kept concealed from every person, but I had taken such measures, that I still flattered myself something would be done in England to break off your marriage. I am grievously disappointed; my enemies having compleatly triumphed over me, and you must marry a beggar without even common sense." This conversation was related to me by my youngest sisters. The ambitious views which the queen had put into my sister's head gave her the sorrowful air in question. As the king was well aware of all that passed in the queen's apartments, by means of la Ramen, who was his spy, he easily judged what the matter was: "What ails you, my dear Lotte?" said he. "Does your marriage trouble you?" "It is quite natural," she replied, "to be somewhat pensive

on the marriage-day. The engagement I am about to take is for my whole life, and it is not surprising that I should have my reflections about it." With a most malicious laugh, the king answered, "Aye, aye, reflections ! your mother puts this into your head ; she is always contriving to make her children unhappy, by filling their heads with chimeras. Don't grieve : you would never have gone into England, where you were never wished for, nor any steps taken on your account. I should have rejoiced to settle you there, but they refuse to be at peace with me, and vex me as much as possible. As for you," said he to me, "I own I broke off your marriage, and I repent it every day, but those devils of ministers deceived me. I ask your pardon ; I have given you much uneasiness, but I was induced to it by unworthy persons. If I had acted like a man of sense, I should have dismissed Grumkow when Hotham was here : but I was then bewitched, and on the whole more to be pitied than condemned." I answered that there was no occasion for him to reproach himself, being perfectly satisfied with my lot, having a husband who loved me, and whom I passionately loved, and that God would take care of the rest. He was pleased with my answer, and after embracing me, said,

“ You are a worthy woman, and God will bless you.” We then withdrew to dress. The queen ordered me to be at the grand apartments of the castle at eight o’clock.

I found every person assembled. I was conducted into a room set apart for the princes. The princess-royal was there with my two youngest sisters, the princesses of the blood, and the two duchesses. The queen entered immediately after, accompanied by the bride. Prince Charles gave her his hand, and led her to the hall, where the ceremony was to take place. We all followed according to our rank, each princess conducted by a prince. The king sat opposite the nuptial table. The ceremony was similar to mine, with this exception, that the queen alone undressed my sister, and would not allow any other person to touch a single pin of her dress. All was over at two in the morning.

The next day was my birth-day, when I was visited by all the princes and princesses. I received presents from all of them, except the queen. We all went to my sister’s, and from thence I visited the king. He was in bed, suffering from the gout. When he saw me, he congratulated me, and wished me every degree of happiness, and turning to the queen, he or-

dered her to bestow a present on me. "Let her choose for herself," said he, "I shall pay for it, and you must also give her something." In the afternoon the queen sent for jewellers, and asked me to choose what I liked best. There was a small jasper watch, set with brilliants, for which the jeweller asked four hundred crowns: this was my choice. After looking at it for some time, the queen, with a contemptuous look, said to me, "So you imagine, madam, that the king will make you such a valuable present as that: you are in want of bread, and yet you must think of watches! a much smaller present might have contented you." Accordingly, she sent every thing away except a ring, of the value of ten crowns, which she gave me; and she told the king that every thing was so dear, she could select nothing. I was more irritated at her manner of behaviour than the loss of my present; but I armed myself with patience, in hopes of soon returning to Bareith, where I should be free from her insults.

On the following day there was a ball. As a number of people were present, there was dancing in four different places, and the ball was divided into quadrilles. My sister of Brunswick led the first, in which were the queen, the princess-royal, and myself. The Margravine

Philippa led the second ; the Princess of Zerbst the third ; and Madame de Brand the fourth. The ball began at four in the afternoon. All the tapers, for they could not be called candles, were lighted, and the heat was quite suffocating. There were two balls of this sort, where every body was ready to die with heat and fatigue.

I was in a most alarming situation : my illness was increasing from day to day, and my weakness was so great that I could hardly walk. The hereditary prince was in the greatest alarm at my situation, more especially as he was obliged to quit me. He set out on the 9th of July for his regiment, of which the review was fixed for the 5th of August. As the weather was then delicious, I took an airing with the princess-royal in the *vourst*, a sort of open carriage, capable of containing about a dozen persons, and extremely agreeable, as it allows one to enjoy at the same time both the pleasure of the prospect and conversation. I supped with a small party at the princess-royal's, and we passed the evening very agreeably.

Next day we had a grand procession. We proceeded in phaetons, dressed in our best style, and all the nobility followed in eighty-five coaches. The king led the way in a Berlin ; he

had planned before-hand the course we were to take, but unfortunately he fell asleep. A most terrible storm came on, accompanied with rain ; but we still moved at our usual pace. Our plight may be very easily imagined : we were all as wet as ducks ; our hair hung about our ears, and we were literally drenched to the skin. At last, after three hours rain, we arrived at Mon-Bijou, where we were to have a grand illumination and a ball. I never saw any thing more comical in all my life than the appearance of the ladies, like so many Xantippes, with their clothes sticking to their backs. We could not even get ourselves dried, and were obliged to remain in our wet clothes the whole of the evening. There was a play every day afterwards.

My health and strength declining daily, and M. Stahl, the king's first physician, having totally neglected me, I applied to the Duke of Brunswick's for his opinion of my condition. Having considered all the circumstances of my case, he pronounced me in a slow fever, with a commencement of scirrhusity in the stomach, and told me that if I did not for some time put myself under regimen, I should not probably outlive a year. I requested him to give his opinion of my disease in writing, which he accordingly did. My brother having been informed of

this consultation, and the physician's opinion, was greatly alarmed, and sent for his surgeon-major, a man of great ability, who coincided with the physician. They both wished me to go through a course of medicine, but I refused, from a conviction that I should derive no benefit from it, as I could not be sufficiently attended to, and my mind was too much cast down.

I had written to Bareith, to induce the margrave to remove me from Berlin: his letter, which I expected with the utmost impatience, at length arrived. It was conceived in such terms that I could have no hesitation in shewing it to the king. He had received one himself similar to mine, and I began to flatter myself that I should experience no obstacle to my departure. When I visited the queen in the morning, I found the king and the Duchess of Bevern with her. "I have received," said he to me, "a letter from your father-in-law, who wishes to have you back again, and is willing to add eight thousand crowns to your income, that you may keep a separate establishment at Erlangen; but I do not see the necessity of this, as I reckon upon your staying with us. What should I say in answer to him?" I told him that to stay at Berlin with him would afford me great pleasure, but as the health of the margrave was declining,

it would be better for us to return to Bareith, which would enable the hereditary prince to acquire some knowledge of his country." The king, frowning, replied: "So, you want to have your separate establishment." I told him it was impossible with eight thousand crowns; but the double of that sum would do. "If I can obtain it for you," said the king, "I shall allow you to go; but if he makes any difficulty, you must remain here." The Duchess of Bevern then told him of my infirm state, and the necessity of my taking care of my health, which I could better attend to at Bareith than at Berlin. She entered into a detail of my disease, and concluded with informing him that I had been directed by the physicians to go to a watering place. "She can go to Charlottenburg," said the king: "I shall enable her to keep table if she wishes it, and she will be better there than at Bareith." To this neither the duchess nor myself durst make any reply, and I was in despair at seeing myself much farther from my purpose of leaving Berlin than I had imagined.

The dukes and duchesses left us the following day, and my sister followed them on the 17th of July. I took my leave of her without feeling any great concern; but the queen was very much affected with her departure. The queen

has naturally a good heart, but her suspicious jealousies and intrigues were the cause of the faults she every day committed.

As soon as my sister had left us she became more tractable towards me. I endeavoured by every possible way to recover her friendship ; and if I did not succeed, I prevailed on her at least to use me better than before. I informed the margrave of my conversation with the king about my return ; and I strongly requested him to continue to urge it warmly, otherwise it would not be obtained.

The king had set out for Pomerania on the day of my sister's departure. He was delighted with the regiment of the hereditary prince : nothing could look better, or display more order and discipline. He brought him back with him to Berlin on the 8th of August. I urged my brother warmly to procure us our leave. He came to an agreement with Grumkow and Sekendorff, to speak on the following day to the king on this subject, as that day he was to be entertained by my brother. As good luck would have it, I received that morning a letter from the margrave, inclosing one for the king. I presented it to him on rising from table. He was then in good humour, and somewhat affected by his wine ; but on reading this letter, his

countenance was changed in a moment. He was silent for a short time, but at length exclaimed : “ Your father-in-law does not know what he would be at : you are better here than with him ; my son-in-law ought to apply to military affairs and business, from which he will derive a great deal more benefit than from planting cabbages at Bareith.” Grumkow and Sekendorff then told him that if he refused to let us go he would embroil us with the margrave, and that however much he was broken down, he might yet take it into his head to enter into a second marriage, which would be of the utmost prejudice to us. This view was seconded by every person present. The king, turning round to me, asked me what I thought of it. I told him the gentlemen were in the right, and that we should esteem his leave to depart a very great favour. “ Very well, then,” said he, “ you may go ; but you are not in such haste but that you may wait till the 23rd of August.” My joy was unbounded when I thus at last obtained my leave.

I passed the remaining fifteen days at Berlin very tranquilly. The queen regretted me from having become accustomed to me : I had even a long explanation with her. She told me that Grumkow was the cause of all the bad treatment I

had received from her, having told her that my timidity alone had occasioned the rupture with England; that the urgency of the king for my marriage with the hereditary prince was altogether affected, and that if I had shewn more firmness when he sent those gentlemen to me, things would have turned out very differently; and that I might judge whether or not she had reason to complain of me. I had little difficulty in clearly demonstrating to her the duplicity of Grumkow.

The king came to take his leave of me on the day of departure, which he did in a very cold manner. This was the last time that I saw my dear father, whose memory I shall ever hold in veneration. My last interview with my brother was most affecting. The queen burst into tears when I left her, and I shed many tears myself at parting.

I dined at Sarmund; and after a slight repast I recommenced my journey. The coachman was kind enough to precipitate us over a causeway. The coach after rolling twice over alighted at last on its top. As I was by no means prepared for such an accident, my face was completely excoriated, and I received several contusions on my head. However, I still continued my journey.

The following day I arrived at Halle, where I was received in form. I was met by a deputation from the university, who made a harangue to me on my fortunate arrival; and M. de Vachholtz, who commanded at Halle in the absence of the Prince of Anholt, gave me a guard, and came to receive orders from me. I found the Duchess of Razivil, sister of the Margravine Philippa, in the town, who came expressly from Dessau to see me. I was very particularly acquainted with her: she was witty and well informed, and her society was highly agreeable.

Next day I left Halle, and reached Hoff the 30th of August. M. de Voit, who joined me at Schleitz, told me the margrave was there, and expressed much joy and impatience to see us. The latter came to meet us with a train of thirty coaches, a few musket shots from the town. I stopped my carriage and alighted, seeing that he did the same. He received me in the most obliging manner possible, and warmly caressed the hereditary prince. We all entered my coach: he told me I appeared very much altered and worn down, but he hoped I should soon recover, as he had got a very able physician.

We stopt a day at Hoff, and I arrived at Bareith on the 2nd of September. I found Mademoiselle

de Sonsfeld on my arrival, who was delighted to see me, and who presented my little daughter to me, whom otherwise I should not have known again. She had been taught a number of tricks, and I may truly say she was altogether as fine a child as could well be seen.

Next day I received a visit from the famous physician who had been extolled so much to me. I shewed him the opinion in writing of the physicians I had consulted at Berlin: He told me he differed from them in opinion; that my disease proceeded from a disordered stomach, and corruption of blood; and that he would begin by bleeding me, and afterwards would make me drink barley-broth every morning, which he was persuaded would soon restore me. He accordingly began by taking ten ounces of blood from me next day, which increased my weakness so much that I was obliged to keep my room for several days. La Marwitz read to me every afternoon, and the margrave visited me in the evening. He paid, indeed, every attention to me; but I was solely indebted for it to Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld, who had gained such ascendancy over him that she completely managed him. To add to my good fortune, he went to Himmelcron and left me at Bareith. On taking his leave, he told me that he went ex-

pressly to allow me time to recover my health, as he knew well that while he was present I would subject myself to the constraint of dressing and going out; and he requested me to entertain myself the best way I could till his return. I was quite delighted with his attentions, and resolved to be on my guard not to do any thing to interrupt this harmony. I had also a visit of a few days from my sister of Anspack, and I began to taste tranquillity, when a new incident replunged me into fresh alarms. But here I must go somewhat farther back.

I have already mentioned the unexpected death of Augustus, King of Poland. On the decease of that prince the republic was divided into two parties, one in favour of the Elector of Saxony, which was supported by the emperor and Russia, and the other in favour of Stanislaus, which was supported by France. The policy of the emperor, always contrary to that of France; the policy of the King of Prussia, who by no means wished for a neighbour protected by so great a power; and that of Russia, the constant ally of the emperor and the Electors of Saxony, were all in direct opposition to the election of Stanislaus Leczinski. Notwithstanding all their efforts, however, the French nation prevailed, and he was elected King of

Poland. At this election Russia was highly irritated, and immediately marched troops into Poland. They began their military exploits with the siege of Dantzick. Every thing bespoke a rupture between France and the emperor, who had already begun to march troops into Italy and along the Rhine. By the secret treaty between the king and the emperor, he was to supply the latter with ten thousand men. I received information from Berlin that the king was preparing for the campaign himself, and that he entertained great expectations of being accompanied by the hereditary prince.

This was the subject of my alarms. Indeed, I was so accustomed to them, that every thing alarmed me. I was plunged in the deepest melancholy. The chagrins I had received at Berlin had occasioned such a dejection of spirits that I had the utmost difficulty in resuming my lively disposition. My health continued always the same, and I was generally believed to be consumptive. I had no expectation myself of ever surmounting my disease, and I expected death with firmness. Study was the only recreation I enjoyed. I employed the whole day in reading and writing. I reasoned with Marwitz, and endeavoured to train her to accurate habits of thinking. For this girl I entertained

a strong friendship, knowing her extreme attachment to me. She began to display a good deal of solidity, and endeavoured to anticipate me in whatever she thought would give me pleasure.

In the mean time the imperial troops were gradually assembling. They were under the command of the Duke of Bevern. The hereditary prince burned with desire for the campaign. This year it could not last long, as the season was too advanced; besides, the margrave openly opposed his wishes. He could only obtain permission to see the army near Heilbronn. He set out on the 30th of September, and returned on the 1st of November.

During this period we were visited by the Princess of Culmbach, daughter of the Margrave George William. The history of this princess is so singular that it certainly deserves a place in these Memoirs.

She was brought up till the age of twelve with her aunt, the Queen of Poland. Her mother the margravine, whose portrait I drew in my account of my journey to Erlangen, thought proper to allow her to remain no longer at Dresden, and sent for her to Bareith. The young princess was beautiful, and her charms in no respect inferior to her mother's, excepting

that she was crooked, and that all the resources of art could not conceal it. The margrave, my father-in-law, who was presumptive heir of the Margraviat, as the Margrave George William had no male children, was one of the suitors of that princess. He was then separated from his wife, and consequently at liberty to contract another marriage. The Margrave of Bareith could not endure the Margrave George William, whose daughter in return could not endure him. Her beauty, modesty, and propriety of behaviour, rendered her mother exceedingly jealous of her; and she resolved to plunge this poor princess in misery. The margrave, her husband, declared himself for his daughter's marriage with the Prince of Culmbach; but the margravine, to break off the match, cast her eyes on one Vobser, a gentleman of the bed-chamber of the margrave. She promised him four thousand ducats if he could so insinuate himself into the good graces of the princess as to get her with child. Vobser was quite charmed with this proposal. For a long time he paid his court to the princess with no other recompense but contempt.

When the margravine saw that this plan would not do, she contrived one night to conceal Vobser in her daughter's room, whose servants

were all gained over. They were shut in together, and notwithstanding her cries and her tears he at length consummated his purpose: his submission, his respect, and his tears subdued the princess: he persuaded her that it was in the margrave's power to get him created a count, and afterwards a prince of the empire, which would enable him to marry her; and as she was an only daughter, the margrave might leave her the greatest part of his territory, by increasing the allodial property, which was already very considerable. Love, and these considerations, induced the princess to engage in an intrigue with her lover, and to have assignations with him. Their interviews were so often repeated that she became at length pregnant. The margravine, who directed the whole intrigue in concert with M. Stuterheim, the margrave's prime minister, was immediately informed of the accomplishment of her desires; but she affected ignorance of her daughter's pregnancy, who on her part endeavoured to conceal it as much as possible. The Prince of Culmbach had no other thought but to succeed in marrying the princess, and he was on the point of repairing to Bareith to demand her from the margrave, when he was informed by a letter from Stuterheim of the whole of what I have just now mentioned.

He renounced his undertaking immediately, highly satisfied with having received this information before he had taken any steps in the business. In the mean time the princess pretended to be very unwell, and apprehensive of a dropsy. Several well-disposed people, who had penetrated through the designs of the margravine, and her daughter's illness, offered their services to extricate her from her embarrassment; but guided by her lover, she obstinately refused all confession. However, the period of her delivery drew near: the margravine accompanied her to the hermitage, while the margrave and M. Vobser were hunting a few leagues distant, when the poor princess was taken in labour, and had not resolution enough to suppress her cries. Her mother entered while she was delivered of two male twins with faces as black as ink. The margravine, without regard to the prayers and intreaties of all around her, took the children and shewed them to every body, proclaiming every where that her daughter was infamous, and had just then been brought to bed. A messenger was immediately dispatched to the margrave with an account of the terrible news. Vobser was with him when he received the letter, and remarking his change of countenance, he conjectured the contents of it, and immediately

made his escape. The margrave was so much affected by this catastrophe, that before he recovered from his astonishment, Vobser was already a great way off. The princess was a few days afterwards sent to Plassenbourg. The margrave trifled so long with the two children that they both died. As to Vobser, he wrote a long letter to the margrave for payment of the four thousand crowns promised him: that prince would have taken vengeance perhaps on his wife, had he not been carried off shortly afterwards by a sudden death. On succeeding to the regency, the margrave, my father-in-law, wished to set the princess at liberty, but he was opposed by the Queen of Poland. However, as she was no longer very strictly guarded, she was visited by some catholic priests, who persuaded her that on changing her religion she would obtain the powerful protection of the Empress Amelia, who would extricate her from her captivity, and provide her with sufficient means to support her respectability. She allowed herself to be overcome by this vague sort of reasoning, and secretly abjured the Lutheran religion. Sometime afterwards the Queen of Poland died, when the princess was set at liberty. She then publicly embraced the catholic faith. She was seized with a remorse of

conscience shortly after my return to Bareith, and again returned to the protestant religion. The margrave, anxious on this occasion to display his zeal for religion, invited her to Bareith, where he received her in a suitable manner, and endeavoured to reinstate her. The princess possesses merit; her conduct has been very correct; she does much good, and her numerous good qualities ought to efface the fault in which she unfortunately fell.

The princess did not remain long at Bareith: she returned a few days after her arrival to Culmbach to receive the margrave and hereditary prince, who were to go there on a hunting party. As my health did not allow me to accompany them, I remained at Bareith.

As I omit no one event of my life, and as I love to relieve these memoirs by all sorts of little anecdotes, I shall proceed to relate one which made a great impression on many persons, but none on me; having liberated myself by means of study and reflection from many prejudices, and piquing myself on being somewhat of a philosopher.

The apartments of the hereditary prince consisted of two adjoining rooms with a closet. These rooms had but two entrances, one through my bed-chamber, and the other through

a small vestibule guarded by two sentinels, and where one of the servants of the prince slept on the night of the 7th of November. The two sentinels and the servant heard the sound of steps in the great room for a considerable time; afterwards they were alarmed by sounds of distress, and at length they heard the most terrible lamentations. They entered the room several times without making the least discovery, and as soon as they were gone the noise recommenced. Six successive sentinels, who mounted guard by turns that night, all attested the same thing. On the report which the Marshal de Reitzenstein received of it, he ordered the affair to be strictly examined into, but nothing could possibly be discovered. All this was kept concealed from me. Some people pretended that it must have been the messenger of my death, and others supposed it foreboded some calamity to the hereditary prince; but this last fear was soon removed by the arrival of the margrave and prince at Bareith, on the 11th of November. Immediately after their arrival a courier arrived with the melancholy news of the death of Prince William, my brother-in-law, and what is most extraordinary, this prince expired on that very night when all this noise was heard in the castle. He left Vienna with the Prince of Culmbach to join his regi-

ment at Cremona. On arriving there, however, he was immediately attacked by the small-pox, which carried him off in seven days. His death was a benefit to the whole family, for had he lived he was of such a weak mind that he would infallibly have injured all of them.

The margrave received the news with great firmness and without shedding a single tear, but the hereditary prince was inconsolable, and I had the greatest difficulty in the world to dissipate his grief. The Prince of Culmbach found means to transport his body secretly to Bareith. We all of us accompanied the margrave to Himmelcron to avoid witnessing his interment. His body was to be deposited in the church of St. Peter, where all the princes of the family are interred. The vault in which they lie is walled in: it was opened a few days before the burial for the sake of being aired; but to the great surprise of those who descended, the whole vault was found full of blood. The whole town repaired to see the miracle, from which many most alarming consequences were prognosticated. This phenomenon was related to me at Himmelcron by persons who brought me a handkerchief dipped in this miraculous blood. Nobody would inform the margrave for fear of making him uneasy; as to myself; who have no great

faith in miracles, I thought the best course would be to inform him ; and I requested him to send M. Goekel, his first physician, to investigate it. The margrave acceded to my request ; and being himself aware of the panic which such an event would infallibly produce in the public mind, he requested me to take especial care that the cause of it should be properly enquired into. Goekel came to us in the evening, with information that the blood flowed at such a rate in the vault that several buckets full had been taken from it, and that after accurately examining the place, he found it issued through an imperceptible crevice of a leaden coffin, which contained the body of a princess of the family, who had been more than eighty years dead, and that the best way of clearing up the matter would be to open the coffin. The margrave gave orders for that purpose, but it could not be accomplished without breaking it completely in pieces, which they were unwilling to do. There was no chemist in Bareith sufficiently skilful to tell whether it was blood or some other liquid : at length one of the physicians of the town, who had sufficient courage to taste it, removed all our apprehensions and embarrassments. The miracle instantly disappeared ; it was nothing more than balm. The princess

who was buried in the coffin from which this liquid issued had been extremely fat: she was embalmed, and her tallow and the balm together had produced this phenomenon, which the physicians, however, thought very singular, on account of the length of time which had elapsed since her death. The funeral of Prince William took place on the 3rd of December: I had given permission to my two women, La Grumkow and La Marwitz, to be present at it. They returned that evening.

Next day, being alone with La Marwitz, I observed her absent and thoughtful, and I asked the cause of it: she told me with a sigh that she was very melancholy, but durst not tell me why. This reply excited my curiosity, and I pressed her to confide her uneasiness to me. "Would to God that I could tell you, madam!" said she: "I have a greater desire to communicate it than you can have to hear; but I took an awful oath to preserve silence; and I can only tell you that it concerns you." The air and tone with which she spoke alarmed me. I could not conceive what it should possibly be, and I endeavoured to discover it by all sorts of questions. She shook her head by way of negative, and told me at last that it concerned the margrave. "What!" said I, "does he

mean to be married?" She gave a sign of approbation. "Good God!" said I, "to whom? and how have you been first informed of it? Without telling me this you may lead me to find it out." She immediately took up a pencil and began to write on the wall, after which she ran out. If I was alarmed before, I remained motionless on reading what she had written, which was as follows :

"I called this morning on my Aunt Flora (the christian name of Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld--- the name which I shall continue to give her throughout the remainder of these memoirs) and finding her thoughtful and busied, I asked her the cause. She told me her head was full of many things; at which I should be greatly surprised were she to tell me them. I pressed her for an explanation. 'I shall confide my secret to you,' said she, 'but you must first swear to preserve the most profound silence respecting it.' I promised silence accordingly, when she told me that the margrave began to pay his addresses to her after our departure for Berlin, and professed so high an esteem for her, that he resolved to marry her; that he wished to have her created a countess of the empire, that she might assume the rank of princess on her marriage: that he intended in that case to

quit Bareith altogether, and settle with her at Himmelcron; that he would give her a very considerable capital to be laid out in some foreign country by way of dower, which would secure her from all attempts on the part of the hereditary prince; and that the margrave, when his son's funeral should be over, would communicate his sentiments to your royal highness. I represented to her that neither the hereditary prince nor your royal highness would ever consent to such a marriage; that the king would support your highness to the utmost of his power; that our whole family was in the dominion of that prince who might revenge on our relations the wrongs done to your royal highness; that the governess would be obliged to quit the court; that she would be mortally grieved; and, in short, that I could not imagine why she could ever give ear to such chimeras. 'They are not chimeras,' said my aunt; 'and I don't know why I should refuse the fortune now offered me. What injury can I do to the hereditary prince or her royal highness? If I don't marry the margrave another will; and after all, their consent is not necessary to the margrave.' 'But should you have children?' said I. 'If I should have any,' she replied, 'I shall die; but I am too old for that.' 'Take care what you

do,' said I, 'and do not consider this a trifling business, for I anticipate the most fatal consequences.' 'O! you are but young yet,' said my aunt: 'you are alarmed without cause, and I am sorry I confided the secret to you. However, do not mention it to any person; I shall go to Himmelcron, and endeavour by degrees to open the matter to my sister, who yet knows nothing of it.'

I never was so surprized in the whole course of my life; and a crowd of reflections at once rushed into my head. The time was short. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld was to come next day, and according to every appearance the margrave would then communicate to us the whole of this fine scheme. I immediately rubbed out what La Marwitz had written, and I sent for the hereditary prince, to whom I communicated the mystery. We both of us tortured ourselves in vain to find out some expedient.

I was much affected by it. I pretended illness at table in the evening, being unable to conceal my agitation. Neither the hereditary prince nor myself could sleep for a moment the whole night through, and we did nothing but walk about the room. In every point of view the affair was of the greatest consequence. In the first place, it was by no means honoura-

ble for us to have a mother-in-law of such inferior birth; secondly, this mother-in-law could only do us infinite injury, complete the ruin of the country, and what was worse, set us again at variance with the margrave; thirdly, the governess, whom I loved as a mother, and who was warmly attached to me, and La Marwitz, whose welfare I was extremely anxious for, would be obliged to quit me, and become the most wretched creatures in the world, for the king would compel them to return to Berlin, where he would throw them into confinement; and in the fourth place, this adventure would be of the greatest possible prejudice to me, as every person would suppose I had allowed myself to be duped, and take it for granted that my governess and her sister had laid their heads together to outwit me. My blood was altogether in such agitation, that notwithstanding all my efforts, I could not conceal my uneasiness next day, so that whenever Flora saw me she perceived my deep chagrin, and concluded from the embarrassed manner in which I spoke to her that La Marwitz had discovered the project to me; for we are all apprehensive when our consciences are not perfectly clear. She persuaded the margrave not yet to break the matter to me, as the fit time was not come.

After this step she began to reproach La Marwitz cruelly for her indiscretion, but that girl quieted her apprehensions so completely that she found means to draw still more information from her. Flora spoke to her with the greatest satisfaction of her future greatness. "I shall have a right to precedency over her royal highness, as being her mother-in-law, and the margrave told me that he was absolutely resolved I should have it: but I shall never fail in my duty to the hereditary princess, and I shall ever endeavour to do her all the kind offices I can. I shall not discover this for some time yet to her; I shall endeavour to gain her over; the margrave will do the same thing, and by means of caresses she will readily consent to whatever we wish."

La Marwitz did not fail to repeat all this to me. After ruminating for some time, I resolved to communicate the whole to the governess; but not to implicate La Marwitz, I pretended to have received an anonymous note, by which all these fine projects were revealed to me. Madame de Sonsfeld burst immediately into a violent passion, and said it was an invention of her enemies to ruin her and her family; but on having the strong proofs brought forward by me of the probability of the truth of the note, she

became gradually pacified. I directed her attention to the frequent visits of the margrave to her sister, the respect and consideration he entertained for her, and a thousand little things, to which I had never before paid attention, but which struck me after this notice. My governess raised her eyes and hands towards heaven, and burst into tears. In the first paroxysm of her rage she wished to abuse the margrave: she afterwards resolved to take her leave, and carry her sister along with her. That, however, was not what I wanted. I told her over and over again we ought to endeavour to break off the intrigue by gentle means only, and by remonstrances to her sister, to which she at last gave her consent. Flora came several times to Himmelcron after this. The governess could not forbear rallying her on her conversation with the margrave, but I kept her yet in such awe that she still preserved silence.

We returned to town on the 20th of December. There her violent humour could no longer be kept within bounds: she treated her sister with great severity, and told her I knew all her projects. Flora's talents were very limited. The governess, who was much older than her, had taken charge of her education, and from that circumstance still preserved a great authority

over her. The poor girl was at length intimidated, and made her a full confession. She shewed her even the margrave's letters, in which he communicated the plan he had formed for her security, in case of surviving him, and which were full of the most flattering promises. When the governess had read them, she ordered her to go instantly along with her to me with the letters, and then write one in my presence to the margrave, and break off all intercourse at once with him, otherwise she, the governess, would instantly take her departure; and if Flora would not follow her, she should contrive some other means to remove her from Bareith. The firm tone of Madame de Sonsfeld frightened her sister, and she came accordingly to me. After the recital of her story, she endeavoured to persuade me she had never entertained any intention of accepting the margrave's offers. I affected to believe her. She gave me her letters to read. I spoke to her in mild and friendly language, but at the same time I gave her to understand I should never consent to her marriage. The hereditary prince gave her many assurances of taking care of her all her life; but he told her in substance the same as I had done. "As to being a princess," said I to her, "that is impossible; the emperor alone can make you

one, and he has too much consideration for the king ever to do what he knows would give him great displeasure ; and as to a left-handed marriage, I should imagine you had too much sense and spirit ever to accept of such a thing : you see then the impossibility of the plan." She promised to write in strong terms to the margrave to give up all thoughts of it ; but as she could be of some service to us from her ascendancy over him, she told me she should act towards him in such a way as to be of utility to us, and at the same time keep him within the bounds of moderation. She kept her word, and I rejoiced heartily at the conclusion of this unpleasant affair. I must, however, draw her portrait here.

Madame de Sonsfeld is only five feet high ; she is exceedingly corpulent, and lame in the left foot ; when young she was a perfect beauty, but her features had become so coarse from the small-pox that she could no longer be considered as such ; her countenance, however, is prepossessing, and her eyes are delusively sparkling and expressive ; her head, which is too big for her little body, gives her a dwarfish appearance ; but her figure however is not remarkable : her manners are graceful, and such as prove her acquaintance with high life : her heart is excel-

lent; she is gentle and accommodating, and, in one word, her character is unblemished; her conduct has always been most exemplary; but heaven has not blessed her with intellect; she possesses a certain fashionable routine that veils this deficiency, which can only be found out in private intercourse. She had been struck with the advantageous offers of the margrave, and overcome by her vanity and ambition; and the narrowness of her understanding had prevented her from foreseeing the consequences.

The margrave began the year 1734 in a very sorrowful manner, having lost all hopes of his marriage. He wept bitterly on receiving the fatal letter from Flora, according to her account. However, after the first impulse was over, he began to entertain hopes of again prevailing upon her.

My health continued always the same; I had no longer a continued fever, but it seized me every evening. However, I still continued to see company, but I was very much disgusted with every thing, and exceedingly melancholy, though I constrained myself so well, that only those who were always with me could remark it. This melancholy partly proceeded from my disease, and partly from the chagrin I

had suffered at Berlin, which had made pensiveness habitual to me.

The imperial regiment of Prince William having become vacant on his death, the margrave was advised to ask it for his son. This regiment had been raised by the Margrave George William, on condition that it should remain to the family. The margrave requested me to write on the subject to the empress. That princess granted my request in the most obliging terms. The hereditary prince was highly delighted, as he was passionately fond of the army.

It was now the carnival season. La Marwitz, who did what she could to divert me, proposed we should have a *wirthschaft*. The hereditary prince, who was fond of amusement, also urged me to prevail on the margrave to consent to it; but the thing was very difficult, for the margrave was no great lover of pleasure, and made it a point of conscience to object to every thing of the kind, in which ideas he was confirmed by his almoner, an extravagant enthusiast. Flora, to whom we spoke on the subject, undertook to procure his consent. She contrived matters so well, that the margrave himself came to me to propose the fête. I at once gave my consent. He requested me to give such orders as I pleased, provided there was no masquerade. This

amusement is only known in Germany, There is a landlord and landlady, who give an entertainment ; the other masks represent all the different trades and professions in the world. At this entertainment the face is not masked, and that was the reason why it had been projected by La Marwitz, as she knew it would be useless to propose a masked ball to the margrave, who would never have given his consent to it.

I ordered the hall, which was of an immense size, to be completely decorated like a wood, at one end of which was seen a village, with its inn, which had the sign of *the good woman without a head*. The inn was constructed of the bark of trees, and the roof illuminated. It contained a table for a hundred guests, in the middle of which several jets d'eau were represented. The houses of the peasants contained shops, with all sorts of refreshments. The ball began after supper. Every person was highly delighted with the entertainment, with the exception of myself, for the margrave never ceased persecuting me the whole evening through with his abominable moral lectures, so that I could speak to nobody, although many strangers were present, with whom I should have willingly entered into conversation.

Next Sunday the margrave's almoner preached

publicly against this masquerade. He apostrophised the whole of us in open church, and though he spared the margrave in public, in private he reproached him so bitterly for having consented to such a piece of iniquity, that the poor margrave believed himself damned to all eternity. He took such repeated oaths to this ecclesiastic never more to suffer such pleasures in his dominion, that at last he received an absolution. Not contented with what he had done himself, he wished the hereditary prince also to abjure them, but the prince contrived to elude the oath, to the great displeasure of the margrave. An adventure which happened then still increased his superstition, and would have reduced us to live like the monks of La Trappe, if the hereditary prince had not taken the trouble to discover the cheat.

Since the death of Prince William, a panic seemed to have taken possession of every mind. Every day we heard nothing but stories of ghosts, who, it was said, had been seen in the castle: every one of these stories was more ridiculous than another. The care of my preservation induced a spirit of flesh and blood to interfere in my favour. Whatever we wish, we believe. There was a rumour in the town that I was pregnant. As I knew the rumour to be

without foundation, I learned to ride on horseback, partly for amusement, and partly for the sake of my health, for which the physicians had prescribed a good deal of exercise. The margrave had given me a black horse, exceedingly gentle, and as I was very weak, I never continued more than a quarter of an hour on horseback. Every novelty is ill received. This custom, in vogue both in England and France, was not then introduced in Germany. Every body exclaimed against it, and it was what gave rise to the stories of ghosts. The Marshal de Reitzenstein was informed that a spectre of a most frightful figure appeared every evening in one of the corridors of the castle, and delivered in an awful voice these words: "*Tell the princess of the country, that if she continues to ride on the black horse, she will experience a great calamity, and that she must not leave her room for six weeks.*" M. de Reitzenstein, who was extremely superstitious, immediately informed the margrave of the apparition, on which I received an express prohibition to leave the castle, or mount on horseback.

I was very much displeased at this, especially for such a trifling reason: I assured the margrave that the whole was nothing but a trick for the purpose. The hereditary prince

communicated his conjectures to him on the subject, and urged the margrave so much that he at length obtained permission to investigate it. The prince placed confidential persons in all the entrances through which the spirit could pass ; but it had such good information that it never made its appearance on the days when it was watched. The prince at last promised a large reward to the woman who first saw it, if she could discover what it was. The poor woman took a dark lantern with her, but she had only time to look at the spectre : it had taken good precautions, and blew so subtle a poison in her eyes, that she lost sight of it. She swore that the spirit had two nut-shells over its eyes, and its whole countenance was so wrapt up with grey cloth that she could not investigate it. This discovery by no means dissipated the bigotry of the margrave, or rather his ill humour against us. The hereditary prince thought that, to avoid all dissension, it would be better for us to leave the place for some time. We had long owed a visit to the Margrave of Anspach : we took this critical time to pay it, and set out on the 21st of January.

The prediction of the spectre was very near being accomplished : in passing over a frightful precipice, the fore wheel went out of the track,

and we should have been overset, if my heydukes had not held the coach by the hind wheels. The Margrave la Marwitz and my governess got out with difficulty, as the rock would not allow the door to be completely opened. My servants, imagining that we had all got out of the carriage, let go the wheels. Fear gave me strength and agility: I sprung at one leap out of the carriage, but my feet slipped, and I fell under it the moment it began to move. La Marwitz, and a Prussian officer who followed us, laid hold of my dress, and extricated me, otherwise I should have been crushed to death. As I was very much frightened, they gave me some wine to recruit my spirits; after which we continued our journey.

A thaw had come on the preceding night. The sun began to give way to darkness, to speak in the language of romance, and we had a river to pass. This river was frozen over; but we had scarcely begun to cross it, when the ice broke, and the horses and coach stuck fast. We were extricated by means of ropes, and with the utmost precaution, otherwise we should infallibly have been drowned.

At length we reached Beiersdorff, where I went to bed half dead with fatigue and fright, and the following evening we reached Anspach.

My reception was similar to the former; and as I have already described that court, I shall not at present dwell on my stay there: I left it on the 8th of February, and arrived the following day at Bareith.

New disasters awaited us. At the period of my marriage the king had entered into a convention with the margrave that he should be allowed to enlist for three Prussian regiments in his dominions; namely, my brother's, the hereditary prince's, and that of the Prince of Anholt. M. de Munichow, captain of the regiment of Bareith, remained to take care of the recruits: he was a young man, a great favourite of my brother, and son of the President Munichow, who rendered him such service during his detention. My brother had recommended him to the hereditary prince: he was a good lad, but his genius none of the brightest. He met us at Streitberg, where we were to dine, and immediately told the hereditary prince of his capture of a man of six feet. This man he said belonged to Bamberg, and wished to enlist in another regiment, which had determined him to carry him off by force, near Bareith, so secretly that nobody knew of it, and to send him to Basewaldt. He added, that he was a good-for nothing fellow, who would

never be missed, and he concluded that the affair would be passed over in silence.

The hereditary prince communicated this noble achievement of Munichow to me, and began to be alarmed for the consequences: he testified his uneasiness even to Munichow, but the young man gave him such assurances of the prudence with which he had acted throughout, that we began to flatter ourselves the affair would never transpire. What persuaded me of the margrave's ignorance was the reception he gave us: he even came on the 12th of February to Himmelcron.

We thought no more of this business till we were awoke at midnight by M. de Voit. He came to inform us that M. Lauterbach, a privy counsellor, but a man of ordinary birth, had called on him towards the dusk, and had desired him to inform us that he came from Himmelcron, where he found the margrave in a more violent passion than he had ever before witnessed; that the margrave was acquainted with what Munichow had done; that he suspected his son to have a hand in it, and swore to be revenged on him in an exemplary manner; that he was to return to town next day, and that we ought to take our measure beforehand, as

every thing was to be feared for the hereditary prince.

This information plunged us into the greatest alarm. We held a futile council, for all our expedients were useless, and the hereditary prince had no other resource but submission; but if that failed, all was lost. We passed a cruel night.

At break of day I sent for my governess: another new council without any conclusion. At last I spoke to Flora: she promised to use all her credit to accommodate this troublesome business; but she added she was afraid she should not succeed, as we took so little pains to please the margrave; and that he could not be blamed for endeavouring to pay us back in the same coin. I asked for an explanation of this enigma, which I did not comprehend, and told her that I did not recollect that either the hereditary prince or myself had ever failed in our respect to the margrave. She shrugged up her shoulders without making any reply. I perfectly well understood what her meaning was, but I affected not to comprehend it; and on my pressing her to speak more clearly, not knowing what to say, she answered that I ridiculed the margrave, and treated him as a weak-minded person, who had not so much as common sense. "If I

said he was weak-minded," I replied, " I said no more than the truth ; but I never spoke in that manner, except to persons who I knew would make no bad use of it---such as your sister and yourself. I own he has reason to be displeased, for I disapproved of Munichow's conduct whenever I heard of that wild adventure ; and if he should even speak of it with some warmth to his son, I could not blame him, provided, however, he keeps from violence, for in that case he would be decidedly wrong.

I passed the whole afternoon in the most dreadful state of alarm. I knew the violent temper of the margrave, and I knew that he was capable of every thing in the first moment of his passion : he arrived at last at five o'clock. The hereditary prince received him as usual at the door, and conducted him to his apartment. The margrave made him a thousand caresses, and conversed a full hour with him ; after which he told him that he had some business to attend to, and that he would shortly visit me.

The hereditary prince returned in triumph : he praised his father in high terms in presence of Flora, and said he should never forget the moderation displayed by him at their last meeting ; that he felt the wrong he had done the

margrave more strongly from this manner of proceeding than if he had been hardly used, though he was innocent in the main, and had had no share in this act of violence. But he soon changed his language, when he heard the next moment that M. de Munichow and two subalterns of the regiment of Bareith were arrested.

The Dutch shortly before had ordered a Prussian officer to be shot for endeavouring to enlist men within their territories, and I recollected that this act of theirs was very warmly approved of by the margrave. I had no doubt in my mind but that the same fate was preparing for Munichow. I trembled for the unfortunate man; I foresaw the most dreadful consequences; and I began to ruminate how he could possibly be extricated from this jeopardy, when the margrave made his appearance. He accosted me in the most obliging manner. I was extremely uneasy; but as we were to sup together, I said nothing to him then. On leaving table I went up to him. "Your highness," said I, "has reason to be displeased with the act of violence lately committed by Munichow: I own that his conduct is unjustifiable, and that he is deserving of your highness's indignation. He has been sharply reprimanded by the hereditary prince, who condemns the action as much as I

do; but as his detention will be the cause of drawing down on me the resentment of the king, who will take this affair very much to heart, I beseech your highness to release him on my account: it is the first favour I have asked from you, and I am persuaded you will not refuse me." He listened to me with great coolness and composure, and then assuming an air of sovereignty, he answered: "Your royal highness continually asks favours from me, which I cannot possibly grant: this deed is atrocious; the man kidnapped is a catholic priest: he was chained and treated in the most cruel manner, and all this was done, I may say, before my very face. Besides, the quarrel in which this will involve me with the Bishop of Bamberg, I cannot forgive such a glaring instance of disrespect, and such a contempt for the authority which God has entrusted to my hands. While I live I shall never suffer such an act of violence to be committed in my dominions; and if my son had a hand in it, I could wish he had never been born, or that he had died in the cradle. I am the master here, and I shall teach every person who presumes to counteract my authority, that I know how to enforce it." "I should imagine, my lord," said I, "that no person calls your authority in question, and

I should be miserable if I thought your highness imagined the hereditary prince had any concern with this affair." "I do not think so, either, madam ; but my son would have acted with more propriety if he had himself informed me of it. I believe, however, that Munichow must have given him quite a different account of this matter." "That is very true," said I, "but if I were allowed to add one word-----" "You may say whatever you please, madam." "Very well, then," I replied, "let your highness substitute clemency for justice, and be contented with the satisfaction already taken in arresting Munichow : let him be released to-morrow, and the hereditary prince will immediately send him off. He is my brother's favourite, who has the greatest obligations to him and his whole family, and who will display the utmost gratitude when he learns that your highness released him in consideration of his services to himself." "I request your royal highness to speak to me no more on this subject ; I know my duty, and I wish you good evening." With these words he went out, and left me quite stupified.

The hereditary prince found me not yet recovered from the effects of this fine discourse ; and we both judged that the affair was likely to be of a very serious nature. The hereditary prince was

in a most violent rage against his father ; and I was nearly in the same disposition. The margrave was quite right in showing his displeasure at the want of respect towards him ; but he ought to have behaved in quite a different manner---to have spoken of it to his son, ordered the arrest of the officer, and afterwards granted him his liberty : but the falsity and dissimulation of his mode of proceeding was quite inexcusable, and sufficiently discovered the sentiments of his heart, which were every thing but favourable towards us. Munichow was examined in form. He denied that he had ever used the man in question ill, and protested his ignorance of his clerical character, as the man's dress bore no signs of it. He was twice interrogated the same day, but nothing else could be drawn from him. Flora, on her part, could obtain nothing from the margrave. I resolved to counterfeit illness, and kept my bed. Every thing was done to soften him on my account, by telling him that I was sick through chagrin ; but he only laughed at it.

Hitherto I had endeavoured to accommodate matters by gentle means ; but Munichow having given information to the hereditary prince that his guards had been doubled, and that he was treated like a criminal on the point of trial, I

concluded the time was now come for employing other means to extricate him from his danger. I sent for Baron Stein, the prime minister. I dwelt on the unpleasant consequences which the proceedings of the margrave might give rise to, if he was determined to proceed to the last extremities with Munichow ; in short, I inspired him with such a terrible dread of the king, that he promised to employ every means to soften the margrave. Quite frightened at what I had said to him, he ran directly to that prince, whom he succeeded so well in intimidating, that he ordered the release of Munichow immediately. He gave it in charge to Baron Stein to tell me that he did not wish Munichow to depart instantly, that he wished previously to shew him some kindness, and that he requested me to accommodate without delay this business with the king. I thanked him for the respect he had shewn me in granting my request, and I told him that the hereditary prince would dispatch M. Munichow immediately to his regiment, not wishing to have about him persons who had been so unfortunate as to incur his father's displeasure ; that I should give an account of all that had passed to the king, and that I had no doubt but the whole matter would be immediately hushed up. He was charmed with my procedure. M. Munichow took his leave

of the margrave, and peace was restored. The hereditary prince obtained even from the king the priest's release, so that the margrave received all the satisfaction which he could require.

Scarcely had I begun to breathe, and to be a little tranquil, when I was again plunged in new alarms: they were occasioned by a letter from the king, who informed me that as he had agreed to furnish the emperor with the ten thousand men stipulated for in the treaty of Vienna, he intended to make the campaign on the Rhine himself, and that the hereditary prince should make it with him; and that I should speak to the margrave on his account, and procure his consent to it. The hereditary prince eagerly wished to go; and seeing himself supported by the king, he did not despair of prevailing on his father. For my part, I was quite adverse to it. I knew the hereditary prince, and that he had the most unbounded ambition to distinguish himself. The army was his ruling passion; and he was ardent and impetuous. From all these considerations I dreaded lest he should expose himself too much, and meet with some unfortunate accident. He was dearer to me than the whole world: we had but one heart and one soul: we had no secrets, no con-

cealments from one another: and never I believe were two hearts more cordially united than our's. I was obliged, however, to shew the king's letter to the margrave; but I contrived to deceive the hereditary prince, and spoke to the ministry before hand, and prevailed on them to dissuade the margrave from consenting to his son's departure. In this I found little difficulty. Since his brother's death he was the only son. They unanimously disapproved of the king's preposal, and promised to take such measures that the margrave would never give into this notable project. Having thus prepared my cards, I spoke to the margrave. He appeared embarrassed, and told me he should think of it. The hereditary prince on his part moved heaven and earth to persuade his father to consent, but nobody would interfere in it; and the margrave himself wrote to the king that he could not allow his son to make the campaign; that this son was the only hope of the country, and that all his subjects were against it. This answer stopt the king's mouth for some time, and gave me some repose.

I have never mentioned the Princess Charlotte, my sister-in-law: her conduct was every way deserving of Bedlam: she was occasionally

seized with gloomy fits when she became quite furious: at such times the margrave was obliged to beat her, otherwise no person could have kept her in order. The physicians pretended that these attacks proceeded from an excessively amorous temparement, and that the only way to cure her was to give her a husband. Their opinion was correct enough; and the truth of it was evident from several circumstances which I cannot here detail with any degree of propriety. She appeared in public morning and evening, and was closely watched during the rest of the day. Whenever she saw a man she began to laugh and make signs to him. Endeavours were always made to give a favourable turn to such behaviour, and ladies were placed in attendance on her to prevent her forgetting herself.

The Duke of Weimar had long had designs on her. He was one of the most powerful princes of the House of Saxony; but he was accounted as great a lunatic in his way as the princess was in her's, so that it was reckoned a very well contrived match. He applied to M. Dobenek for the portrait of my sister-in-law, which, though not a favourable likeness for the princess, appeared charming to him. He demanded her in form from the margrave, on con-

dition, however, that his proposals should be kept secret till his arrival at Bareith. The margrave took him at his word immediately, as may easily be imagined, and every sort of preparation was instantly made in secret for the nuptials.

The Princess Wilhelmina had also married the Prince of East Friesland a few months before, not being able to bring herself to go into Denmark.

But to return to the Duke of Weimar. He came like Nicodemus in the night, for he only gave a few hours notice of his coming. The Duke of Cobourg was announced at the same time, which threw us into great uneasiness, as he was heir of the greatest part of the Weimar territory, on the death of the duke without male offspring, and we imagined he came with the intention of preventing the marriage. They arrived both in the evening. The margrave, who disliked company, and particularly strangers, requested me to do the honours of his house, and gave orders to all the court to obey my directions. The two princes were accordingly introduced to me.

The Duke of Weimar was diminutive, and as lean as a skeleton. He paid me a very well-turned compliment, and for the first day his

behaviour seemed perfectly correct. He frequently looked at the princess, who was as beautiful as an angel, and whom I had taken care to decorate to the best possible advantage.

The Duke of Cobourg was tall, very well built, and his physiognomy altogether prepossessing. He was extremely polite, and a prince of great good sense, and the most amiable disposition.

Next day the Duke of Weimar began to discover himself a little. For two hours he kept telling me such extravagant falsehoods that the devil himself could not have exceeded them. The whole day passed without a word being said to the margrave, who was very much alarmed, and begged me for the love of God to bring about the marriage. "I do not wish to fall out with the Duke of Weimar," said he: "nobody but your royal highness can conclude the business. I should feel the deepest chagrin if the marriage were broken off; it would be such an indignity done to my honour, that it could only lead to the most unpleasant consequences."

I yielded to his intreaties, but I was very much embarrassed to know how to bring the duke to an explanation. The Duke of Cobourg relieved me. He demanded a private audience of the

hereditary prince and myself. He told me that he perceived we were distrustful of him, as he was the collateral heir of the Duke of Weimar; that he came purposely to justify himself to us; that his only intention in coming to Bareith was to bring about the duke's marriage; that the duke was subject to terrible caprices; that he was quite empty-headed, had no fixed plan, and changed his purpose twenty times a day; that we should never accomplish our object by standing on ceremony with him; that I ought in a playful moment to bring him to a declaration and promises; that he would second me with all his ability; that he was very well pleased with the prince; and that the ceremony might take place the very same evening if I only followed his advice. We expressed our warm thanks to him. He gave me my lesson, and begged the hereditary prince not to interfere; "For," said he, "he is fond of women, and her royal highness may make him take the leap whenever she pleases." I informed the margrave of all this, and requested him to be in readiness to come at the first signal I should give, to be present at the espousals.

At mid-day I began to prepare my cards. I ordered an assemblage of all the noisy and disorderly music which I could bring together:

trumpets, kettle-drums, bagpipes, flutes, Jews' harps, French-horns, and God knows how many others besides, which altogether produced the most diabolical harmony. The duke's extravagance was immediately beyond all bounds. He seemed quite beside himself. He rose from table, and began to beat on the kettle-drum himself, tortured the violin, leaped, danced, and committed every species of excess. On leaving the table I led him to my closet, accompanied by the Duke of Cobourg, the princess, and my women. I began to speak of the war on the Rhine, and blamed the emperor for neglecting to put him at the head of his army. On this he poured out a series of gasconades and rhodomontades during a whole hour together, and concluded by telling me that he would make the campaign, and that his equipage was all ready. "I do not approve of that," said I: "a prince like you should not expose yourself; you have great hopes; you may one day be Elector of Saxony, although about a score of princes must be first sent to the other world. "All very true," said he; "but I was born a soldier, that is my profession." "I know a way to get over the difficulty," I continued: "you ought to marry and get a son, and then you may take the field when you will." "Oh! as to wives,"

said he, " I could easily get a hundred ; three princesses and two countesses are now waiting for me at Hoff, but they are not to my taste, and I shall dismiss them. The king, your father, madam, made me an offer of you, and it was in my power to have married you, but I was unacquainted with you, and refused the offer ; though now I am grieved to the heart at it, for I adore you ; yes, devil take me if I am not as fond as a dog of you." " How unfortunate I am," I said, " to think that you could be so unkind as to refuse me : I never knew this affront before, and I must have satisfaction."

I affected the greatest desperation. The hereditary prince and my women were like to die with laughter. The duke threw himself in great agitation at my feet, and began with much fervency to pour out long declarations of love to me, which he had got by heart from some German romance ; however, I still continued inexorable. He told me at last that he was ready to give me whatever satisfaction I should demand. " Well then," said I, " I can receive no other satisfaction but to make you marry one of my relations : are you disposed to do so?" " With all my heart," said he : " give me any person you please, and may I be struck dead with lightning this moment if I don't instantly marry her." " I have no occa-

sion to go farther ;” said I, “ here is one,” taking my sister-in-law by the hand and presenting her to him : “ she is more beautiful and amiable than I am, and you will lose nothing by the exchange.” He wished to kiss her, but she refused him. “ Plague take her, how proud she is ;” said he, “ but she pleases me, and I am quite satisfied with her.” I instantly sent for the margrave, and informed him that immediately on his arrival he should make them exchange rings. He entered without delay. I immediately told him that I had taken the liberty to make up a match which only wanted his consent ; that I had so great an esteem for the duke, that I had given him my word to obtain the Princess Charlotte for him, and that I hoped the margrave would not refuse her. The margrave instead of answering began to gape and laugh, and asked the duke how he did. I thought the Duke of Cobourg, the hereditary prince, and myself, should have burst with vexation ; for our madman immediately began to enter upon a long discourse with the margrave, and thought no more of his promise of marriage. We had every thing to do over again. At length, by dint of urging the margrave, he gave his promise. Guns were instantly fired. The whole court, and the city ladies, entered my anti-chamber, and were received

compliments immediately. Lots were drawn, and we sat down to table. We had a ball after supper. I retired after dancing with the Duke of Weimar. I could no longer support the fatigue, and my throat was exceedingly sore from having spoken so much.

Next day, M. de Comartin, colonel of the duke's guards, requested an audience of me. He began by repeated excuses for the commission on which he came; he told me the duke appeared like a distracted person, that he wished to depart, and desired him to inform me that he had no intention of marriage; that he intended to take a vow of celibacy; and in short, that all which had taken place the preceding day was merely diversion. Comartin advised me to assume a high tone, and behave as if I was quite indifferent about it. I told him there was no need for his giving me such advice; that he had only to tell the duke from me that I thought I was doing him a great honour in giving him my sister-in-law; that I was quite indifferent as to his alliance; and that he would do me a great pleasure in departing as soon as possible. "You may also give him my compliments," said the hereditary prince, "and assure him that I shall immediately show him how much I am charmed with his behaviour."

I informed the margrave of what was going on, and requested him to pretend ignorance of every thing, as I had still hopes of accommodating the business. I was not wrong in my conclusions. Comartin immediately returned to ask my pardon on the part of his master, and to beg me, for the love of God, to reconcile him with the hereditary prince. The duke soon followed him. I affected long to be inexorable, but at length I yielded, and the hereditary prince followed my example. We fixed the nuptials for the following day, the 7th of April.

I began to dress the princess in her wedding robes, and decorate her head with a ducal crown formed of my own jewels. Hitherto we had had little difficulty with her; her mind had been more orderly and tranquil, but when I attempted to put the crown on her head, she began to exclaim and weep like an idiot, and fled from one room to another, throwing herself on her knees before every seat in her way, and praying most fervently all the while. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld, who possessed most authority over her, asked her what was the matter with her. She answered, that they intended to kill her; that she saw only enemies around her, who wished to cut her throat. At length, after much intreaty, we discovered the source of her terror. She had

gone to see the lighted chapel where her brother's corpse lay; and the same crown of jewels which she was to wear that day had been placed on a cushion near the coffin. We had all the difficulty in the world to quiet her. She looked as beautiful as an angel. When she was dressed, the margrave and the two dukes came for her. We conducted her into a chamber of audience, when the renunciation took place; and the benediction followed immediately after in the same room. There was a table of state: we danced after supper with lighted torches, and I afterwards conducted the bride to her room, and undressed her, while the princes did the same thing to the duke. Every body had withdrawn. When she was in bed, I sent for the margrave: I waited an hour, nobody came. I sent a second time: the hereditary prince came and told me that the duke was quite frantic, and would not go to bed; and that they had tried every art of persuasion with him in vain. In this way he kept us till four in the morning. The hereditary prince was obliged again to frighten him, and threaten him with a duel. I withdrew after he went to bed.

These vigils and fatigues completed the ruin of my health. All the medicines taken by me had produced no effect, and I still continued to suffer.

Next day we had new troubles: the duke complained of his spouse, accusing her of having refused to consummate the marriage. This sort of business continued all the time he remained at Bareith. I refused to interfere: the margrave and hereditary prince were at length obliged to interpose. He left us at last on the 14th of April, to our great joy and relief, for if he had staid longer, he would have driven us all distracted. As the duchess had as yet no ladies, I was glad of this pretext for removing Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld for some time. I gave her permission to be absent for six weeks. The hereditary prince accompanied his sister to Cobourg, where he staid only a few days.

The margrave returned to Himmelcron, and the hereditary prince and myself to the hermitage. There I received a letter from the queen, which surprised me a good deal: she informed me, that my fourth sister, Sophia, was promised in marriage to the Margrave of Schwed, the same who had been destined for me. She bestowed the warmest eulogies on this prince: she would never have been so adverse to him, she said, if she had known him sooner.

I wondered at the instability of all sublunary things, and more especially the inconstancy

of the human heart. The margrave had so completely gained over the queen by the reports he brought her, that she had at length consented to give my sister in marriage to him. But as soon as he was married, he threw off the mask, and showed himself as he really was, which occasioned my receiving by the very next post a letter from the queen, quite contradictory of the former, and full of imputations against that prince. I lamented this marriage exceedingly on account of my sister, whom I tenderly loved. She was not beautiful, but her disposition, her mildness, and a thousand other good qualities, sufficiently atoned for that deficiency. She managed so as to bring her husband round, and to gain such an ascendancy over his mind, that he became as gentle as a lamb with her. However, with all her efforts, she could never correct that prince of his defects: he remained quite the same, except that he behaves like an angel to his wife, who leads a very happy life with him.

My alarms respecting the campaign of the hereditary prince recommenced. He intrigued under hand to obtain the margrave's permission to go, and I on the other hand laboured to prevent it, so that we were mutually deceiving one another. I received, however, a second letter

from the king, which caused me the most cruel uneasiness. The following are the contents :

“In six weeks, my dear daughter, I set out for the Rhine. My son and cousins will take the field along with me, and my son-in-law must do the same. Is he to stay planting cabbages at Bareith, while all the other princes of the empire take a part in the war? He will pass in the world for a dishonourable poltroon; all the reasons of the margrave are good for nothing. Be so good as to give him the enclosed, and tell him he will dishonour his son if he prevents his accompanying me to the field. Return a speedy answer, and believe me to be, &c.”

Good God ! what were my feelings on reading that letter ! I shed a torrent of tears. The hereditary prince spoke to me with great vehemence, and told me if I did not persuade his father to let him go, I should compel him to flee from Bareith, and make the campaign without his consent. answered that he could only require me not to oppose him, and that I should never persuade the margrave to let him go. I sent the king's letter to that prince. He wrote me to return to town, where he had many things to communicate to me, and where he would take the advice of his council on this business.

On the 14th of June I went accordingly to Bareith. The margrave shewed me the king's letter, which was nearly in the same terms as my own, and one from Count Sekendorff. That general begged him for the love of God to yield to the wishes of the king, and represented to him, that by endeavouring to prevent the hereditary prince from taking the field, he would involve him in many disagreeable affairs ; that the season was far advanced ; that the campaign could not last long ; and that he hoped to restore his son safe and sound to him, and covered with glory at its termination. The margrave asked my opinion on the subject. I answered that I left the business entirely to him, that he was a father, and that I was persuaded he would maturely reflect on both sides of the question before coming to a determination. He appeared to me very much agitated. The whole country, in fact, was averse to this projected campaign, and it was loudly said if the margrave suffered his son to go it would be a sign that he did not love him. His answer to the king was, that the proposition was of so great consequence, that he could not come to a speedy determination. The hereditary prince, on his part, was dreadfully displeased with the irresolution of the

margrave. He urged him strongly every day to yield to his wishes.

The king, however, had already left Berlin to join the army, and my brother and all the princes followed him a few days after. The king went through the territory of Cleves. My brother informed me he should go by Bareith, but that his father had expressly forbid him to stop there, and he begged me to meet him on the 2nd of July, at Bernek, two German miles from Bareith, where he could halt for a few hours. I did not neglect this opportunity of seeing my dear brother. I set out early in the morning with my governess, M. de Voit, and M. Sekendorff. A gentleman of the bed-chamber was along with the prince, and Baron Stein followed us to compliment my brother on the part of the margrave.

I reached Bernek at ten. The heat was excessive, and I was very much fatigued with my journey. I alighted at the house prepared for my brother. We continued waiting for him till three in the afternoon; but at last we became impatient, and sat down to table. During dinner a furious storm came on. I never saw any thing so awful. The thunder re-echoed from the rocks which surround Bernek : the destruction of the world seemed to be at hand, and a torrent of

water succeeded the thunder. It was now four o'clock, and I could not conceive what had become of my brother. I sent several persons on horseback to meet him, but they never returned. At last, the hereditary prince, notwithstanding all my entreaties, also went in quest of him. I remained till nine in the evening, waiting the return of some one or another; but no person came. I was in the most cruel agitation; for these water-spouts are exceedingly dangerous in mountainous countries. The roads are frequently inundated in a moment, which often occasions dreadful accidents. Something of this nature I was sure had happened to my brother or to the hereditary prince. At last I received information that my brother had changed his route, and gone to Culmbach, where he was to stay that night. I wished to go there. The distance from Culmbach to Berlin being four German miles, through roads of the most frightful description, full of precipices, every person opposed my intention; and whether I would or not, I was forced into my coach, to be driven to Himmelcron, two German miles distant. We were nearly drowned on the road, the floods having swelled at such a rate that the horses were obliged to swim.

I arrived at last at one in the morning. I

immediately threw myself on the bed ; but I was dying, and in the greatest alarm for my brother and the hereditary prince. The latter at length relieved me. He arrived at four o'clock, but could give me no information respecting my brother. I began to doze, when I was awoke with the information that M. de Knobelsdorff wished to speak to me on the part of the prince-royal. I sprung out of bed, and run to him. He told me that my brother had only calculated on seeing me the day following, which was the cause of his refreshing himself at Hoff ; that if I wished, he would repair to some place in the neighbourhood of Bareith ; that he would be there precisely at eight o'clock, and stay with me a few hours. I had no time for longer sleeping, and took coach again instantly for the rendezvous.

My brother loaded me with caresses, but he found me in so pitiful a state that he could not refrain from tears. I was unable to support myself on my legs, and was every moment on the point of dropping down through weakness. He told me that the king was strongly irritated against the margrave for not allowing his son to take the field. I told him the margrave's reasons, and added that I thought him in the right. " Very well," said he ; " let him quit the army then,

and return his regiment to the king; but you may set yourself at ease as to any fears of his safety you may have entertained, as I know for certain that no blood will be shed." "The siege of Philipsburg, however, goes on," I replied. "So it does," said he; "but they will not hazard a battle for its relief." The hereditary prince just then entered, and warmly requested my brother to get him leave to quit Bareith. They retired to a window, where they conversed for some time. My brother at last said that he would write a very obliging letter to the margrave, in which he should urge such strong reasons for the campaign that he had no doubt it would produce its effect. "We shall stay together," said he to the hereditary prince; "and I shall be overjoyed to be always with my dear brother." He wrote a letter for the margrave, which he gave to Baron Stein. They took a tender farewell of one another, not without shedding tears. He undertook to obtain the king's permission to stop at Bareith on his return, and then parted with us. This was the last time I saw him on the old footing with me--- what a change has since taken place!

We returned to Bareith, when I grew so unwell, that for three days my recovery was considered hopeless: however, I still escaped, but

I was seized with a much more severe slow fever than I had ever before experienced.

All this time I have said nothing of Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld. She had returned from Weimar, where she left the duke and duchess in peace and tranquillity. I had always flattered myself that absence would banish her from the heart of the margrave; but I reckoned without my host, for the margrave upon her return shewed himself more amorous of her than ever. It is said that love is never disgusting, but I maintain that it may be very disagreeable, and that the love of the margrave was of that description: his passion would brook no constraint: he visited his fair one every day, to whom he repeated long moral discourses, contenting himself with sucking her hands. He equipped himself in a new suit every day, and tortured his invention in attempts to give his grizly locks a youthful appearance: when he could not see her, then the billet doux began to pour. These epistles were as tender as he could make them, but so insipid that they were absolutely sickening. All his views, he said, tended only to marriage, as his love was altogether free from every thing material. In this he was probably quite accurate, for he had become so extenuated that skin and bone was all that

his confirmed phthisick had left him. These doings were extremely displeasing to us. Flora loved him as much as she was beloved, and I foresaw that she would at length yield to her cadaverous lover.

This poor prince, besides the rigours of his fair one, was then overwhelmed with an affliction which he felt with great sensibility, and with which I very keenly sympathised: this was the melancholy news of the death of the Prince of Culmbach: his adjutant brought the account. He fell on the 29th of June, at the battle of Parma, which was fought under the command of General Merci. He had just taken possession of one of the French batteries, when he received two shots, which precipitated him into a ditch. He was carried into a neighbouring shed, where his wounds were examined. The surgeons told him that he had but a few hours to live, as his wound was mortal. "Then I have the pleasure," said he, "of dying in the way I have always wished, and I shall be contented if we are conquerors." These were his last words: he became immediately insensible, and died a few moments afterwards. The marshal de Merci and fifteen generals of note were killed in the action. The field remained to the French, who may be allowed to claim the vic-

tory: the loss of the Austrians was dreadful. The hereditary prince and myself were grieved to the bottom of our soul at our loss: I shed many a tear for him, having lost a true friend and a prince who was an honour to his family. His body was secretly conveyed to Bareith.

In the mean time my brother's letter had produced its effect on the margrave, and the equipage of the hereditary prince was preparing with all expedition. I was then plunged in the deepest melancholy; I was struck with the death of the Prince of Culmbach, and I expected the same fate for the hereditary prince; however, the bad state of my health afforded me some consolation, for I thought if the hereditary prince should fall, I could not survive him. Hitherto the physician had done nothing for me but bleed me eight times in the space of ten months: he was ignorant of my disease, and imagined that it proceeded from too much blood, and he had given me strong medicines, from which I experienced some relief for a few hours, but which afterwards added to my disease. He began to try another course with me, and we fixed on going to a watering-place. We went to Brandenbourger with the margrave, that I might take the waters with greater convenience: but my weak stomach was unable to bear them,

and I was obliged to quit the place at the end of three days.

In the mean time the body of the Prince of Culmbach arrived at Bareith : it was deposited in the chapel, as the preparations for the funeral, which was to take place with pomp and ceremony, were not yet ready. The margrave still continued to be greatly affected with this loss ; and his health was growing worse and worse every day. The physician told him of the dangerous state he was in, and that unless he renounced drinking, he could not survive: but he had accustomed himself so much to it, that he could not pass a single day without being twice intoxicated.

The 7th of August, the melancholy day of the hereditary prince's departure, at length arrived. Nobody but those who love with the warmth of affection I bore to him can have an idea of my sufferings: a thousand deaths were nothing in comparison. My imagination was filled with the persuasion I should never see the prince more. He tore himself from me in such a disconsolate state himself, that he knew not what he said or what he did. He was conducted more dead than alive to the coach; and as to me, I was in a situation at which even things inanimate would have been moved. Four days I re-

mained in that situation; at length I endeavoured by reflection to moderate my grief, and keep it within certain bounds.

I have never yet spoken of the whole campaign of the Rhine, not wishing to interrupt the thread of my narrative: I shall here give a sketch of the principal events.

The Duke of Bevern had been invested with the command of the Imperial army the preceding year. This army, which consisted only of twenty thousand men, had remained on the defensive, and had not been able to prevent the French army, under the command of the Duke of Berwick, from passing the Rhine. Prince Eugene of Savoy was sent to supply the place of the Duke of Bevern, and he was extremely displeased on his arrival at the army with the measures which had been taken. He instantly abandoned the lines of Stokoff. The French pursued the Imperialists without being able to do them the smallest injury: although France had never yet attacked the empire, the intrigues of the court of Vienna prevailed over the policy of the princes, who entered very inconsiderately into this war, and furnished their contingent to the emperor. The Danes to the number of six thousand, the Prussians to the number of ten thousand, and the troops of the

empire extricated very apropos Prince Eugene from his embarrassing situation. He could not, however, prevent the French from obtaining possession of Kehl, and laying siege to Philipsburg, which also surrendered after a vigorous defence of six weeks. Marshal de Berwick and the Prince de Lixin were killed in the trenches. The hereditary prince arrived two days after the taking of the place. The king had employed every effort to persuade Prince Eugene to give battle to save the place; but he would never consent, telling the king that if he should have the misfortune to be beat, all Germany lay open to the French, and they might take possession of whatever they pleased.

The hereditary prince was very well received by the king and my brother, who lent him a tent till his own equipage should arrive: he found the king much changed in his appearance, and exceedingly emaciated: he had the gout in his hand, and the disease which terminated in his death was then undermining his constitution. He could not support the whole campaign, and was obliged to return to the territory of Cleves. He caressed the hereditary prince a thousand times before his departure, and ordered him to stop at Bareith on his return from the campaign. The hereditary

prince soon rendered himself a favourite with all the generals and officers of the army: he bestowed all the application in his power to his profession among them; and his regularity of conduct, his polite and affable behaviour, disposed all hearts in his favour. It was not so with my brother: he had contracted an intimate friendship with Prince Henry, second prince of the blood, and the margrave of Schwed's brother. The only merit of this individual was his beauty: he was vicious, his character was bad, and he had always displayed a meanness of sentiment which had rendered him an object of contempt. He contrived, however, to insinuate himself so well into my brother's favour, that he succeeded in corrupting him, and plunging him into the most horrible debauchery. This was not all: he inspired him with a suspicion of all respectable persons: those who resembled himself were alone welcome to him; in short, my brother became altogether so different from what he had hitherto been, that he was the subject of universal discontent. This common feeling was shared by the hereditary prince.

One day that he went to reconnoitre the enemy with Duke Alexander of Wirtemberg, my brother, several princes and generals, they found the French posted on the left bank of

the Rhine. The hereditary prince began to make a drawing of their post, and did not observe that my brother began to leave him. A young hussar, who accompanied him, thought proper, very unsuitably, to amuse himself in firing at the enemy with a rifle gun. The French returned the salute immediately, and in an instant the balls were flying round the hereditary prince in all directions: he did not, however, think proper to return, but compleated his drawing, and afterwards sharply reprehended the hussar for his imprudence. On compleating his sketch, he mounted his horse and joined my brother, who was entertaining Prince Henry with sarcastic observations on what had happened. The hereditary prince overheard the remarks: he told my brother the real transaction, but seeing that he still continued to whisper in the ear of Prince Henry, and to look on him with an air of derision: "I shall be under the necessity of teaching a certain person, who thinks proper to utter falsehoods respecting me to your royal highness, to be somewhat accurate, and to renounce spreading calumnies for the future." My brother was silent as well as Prince Henry, to whom the latter part of the sentence was directed.

Next day the hereditary prince ridiculed

Prince Henry in the most cutting manner in the presence of all the generals; Prince Henry, however, did not think it prudent to return it, and he prevailed on my brother to make some advances to the hereditary prince, who was exceedingly discontented with him.

A few days after a courier arrived at the army with an account of the distressing state of the king's health: he had gone to Cleves, and was obliged to remain there from the great increase of his disease. His body began to swell, and the physicians pronounced him dropsical, and in a very dangerous and precarious state.

I returned to Bareith. As the body of the Prince of Culmbach was to be buried on the 25th of August, we withdrew to Himmelcron to avoid being present at the ceremony. After the departure of the hereditary prince, I perceived that the margrave's love was making a very rapid progress. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld could not conceal her inclination for him, and sufficiently discovered by her discourse that she would yield to the temptation of becoming a margravine. The margrave grew daily weaker and weaker. His physician, one of the most ignorant that ever existed, undertook to cure him by certain baths, and by a beverage, which he regarded as a universal panacea, and

which consisted of pine cones boiled in water. The margrave and myself began our course at the same time, but fortunately for me there were persons charitable enough to inform me that I should kill myself by continuing it. The same advice was proffered the margrave, but he was so infatuated with his physician, that he continued his baths, though he regularly fainted every day in them. He set workmen about repairing the castle at Himmelcron, who had orders to work day and night. He ordered a new apartment in it, which was to be decorated with gildings and mirrors; he had it in contemplation to have a magnificent garden and menagerie; and stables were then building.

From all this, I naturally concluded he was on the eve of marriage, and that he intended to reside constantly at Himmelcron. La Marwitz confirmed me in this opinion, and incessantly advised me to be on my guard. She possessed a great deal of penetration and judgment. I could place every reliance on her discretion, and I loved her more and more every day. As she was always on the look out, she soon perceived that many persons were concerned in this intrigue, and among others M. de Hesberg, who had been governor to Prince William. As I knew him to be a very worthy man, I had

nothing to apprehend from opening myself to him on the subject, but I resolved to wait till my return from Himmelcron.

On the 24th of August, I went there with my governess and La Marwitz. I passed my time in the most wearisome manner possible. The state of the margrave was most alarming; his memory had failed to such a degree, that for the most part he knew not what he said. After eating and drinking, he was seized with convulsive starts, which alarmed me exceedingly, for I expected every moment to see him fall into convulsions, to which he had been subject in his youth. The whole blessed day he remained in my room, which constrained me very much.

At length we returned to Bareith on the 4th of September, when I endeavoured to have a secret interview with M. de Hesberg. He owned he was acquainted with the subject I wished to be informed of: that Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld had confided it to him, and he gave me the following account:---After I had broke off the former intrigue, the margrave still continued his addresses. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld had kept herself for some time on the defensive, but she had at last yielded, on condition, however, that she should only wed him with my consent. As the margrave concluded he would find great dif-

difficulty in procuring her to be created a princess, he had resolved, by way of removing all obstacles, to obtain for her the title of Countess of Himmelcron. His intention was to retire with her to this place, and to bestow a very considerable capital on her, to be secured in some other country. The margrave only waited the return of the hereditary prince, and my brother's departure, to break this matter to us, firmly resolved, if we should make any difficulties, to be revenged on us, and go still farther.

All this alarmed me in the highest degree. It would have been easy for me to have completely counteracted this intrigue, if I had only informed the king of it; but I was too fond of my governess to expose her and her family to that prince's resentment. I resolved at last to hazard every thing. I sent for Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld: I told her frankly that I knew all her proceedings with the margrave; that I had already spoken frankly to her on that subject; that I should never consent to her marriage; that if she persisted in it, she would lay me under the necessity of having recourse to the king; that she ought to put an end to her assignations with the margrave, which were injurious to her reputation; that she ought to consider the state of that prince, who was on the brink

of the grave, and could not live much longer; that if she married him through affection his loss would be much more keenly felt after her marriage than before; and that if it was from motives of interest, she might rely on my providing for her during the remainder of her life, and that I should endeavour to reward her for the sacrifice. I seasoned this discourse with many obliging expressions, and partly by gentle means, and partly by threats, I drew from her a second promise that she would go no further. She owned that she had always flattered herself that I would yield to her, and that she could not deny that she was sensible to the margrave's love: and she judged it would be proper to proceed gently with him, and not to ruffle him, lest his resentment should fall upon us: "For," said she, "if he knew, madam, that your royal highness opposed his views, and induced me to refuse him, he would assuredly proceed to the last extremity."

She managed matters in reality with so much prudence, that she amused the margrave to the day of his death, and contrived by means of her credit with him to render us all sorts of good offices. She wanted nothing but the title of margravine; for she possessed the authority: nothing was done without consulting her, and

all favours passed through her hands. The first kind office she did me was to persuade the margrave to recall the hereditary prince. The French had gone into cantonments, and nothing more could then be done at the army. She obtained this, however, with great difficulty.

I had the pleasure of seeing the hereditary prince on the fourteenth of that month. He had met with general approbation. I received various letters from the army respecting him, full of his praise, and his earnest application to his profession. I found him very lusty and in good health: he expressed his discontent with my brother to me, and told me that he had very much changed for the worse, and that I should hardly know him; that he no longer cared for me; and in short, that he was altogether quite a new man. I was exceedingly distressed at this account. I flattered myself, however, with regaining my brother's heart during the stay he was to make with us.

The king was in a most pitiful state: he had been conveyed to Berlin: all the physicians who attended him considered his disease incurable.

The margrave continued to decline. As his health would not permit him to receive my brother, he withdrew to the park, where he had a very elegant house, that he might avoid his

presence, and begin a new course of medicines: but he could not go through it; he was seized with a spitting of blood, which threatened his life. Every person advised him to get rid of his physician. They exasperated him so much against that poor devil, that if he had not been over-ruled, he would have put him under arrest. The other physicians maintained that the baths prescribed by him for the margrave had alone reduced him to the state he was in; but Goekel was of a contrary opinion, and he undertook to prove the efficacy of his baths in this manner: "Bodies are preserved," said he, "by being embalmed; hence I conclude that if I could only embalm a person in full life, that person might live for several centuries: now, the most excellent preservation against corruption is the cone of a pine. Hence I have acted like a man of sense, who understands his profession, in prescribing it to the margrave and the hereditary princess." I laughed heartily at this notable system; which would have soon reduced the margrave and myself to mummies.

At that time we received news from Italy, favourable for the Austrians. Count Koenigsek surprised the armies of Marshal Broglio and the King of Sardinia, by passing with his troops the river Seggio. The marshal fled with only

one shoe and stocking on, and the whole allied army was put to rout. Nothing could be more diverting than the appearance of the Austrian hussars, all decked out with the laced suits of the French officers. They had their revenge, however, a few days afterwards; Count Koenigsek having pursued them, the French gave battle before the town of Guastala, and defeated him. Prince Lewis of Wirtemberg, and several other brave Austrian generals, were killed there.

My brother arrived on the 5th of October: he appeared very much out of countenance; and to break off all conversation with me, he told me he was obliged to write to the king and queen. I ordered pen and ink to be brought him. He wrote in my room, and employed a whole hour in dispatching two letters of a couple of lines. The whole court were next, by his desire, presented to him, when he contented himself with looking at all those who composed it with an air of derision. He then sat down to table. The object of his whole conversation was to turn into ridicule whatever he saw, and he repeated more than a hundred times to me the words *petty prince and petty court*. I was exasperated, and quite at a loss to understand the reason of this sudden change towards me. Accord-

ing to the etiquette of all the courts of the empire, the table of the prince is allowed to no officer under the rank of captain: lieutenants and ensigns are placed at the third table. My brother had a lieutenant in his suite: he ordered him to take his seat at table, telling me the king's lieutenants were well worth the margrave's ministers. I devoured all this rudeness, and affected not to understand it.

In the afternoon, when we were alone, "Our father draws towards his end," said he, "and he cannot outlive this month. I know that I have promised great things to you, but I am not in a condition to perform them. I shall allow you the half of the sum lent you by the deceased king; and that I believe will be quite satisfactory to you." I told him that my affection for him had always been disinterested; that I should ask nothing more from him than the continuation of his friendship; and that I did not wish a single farthing from him if it would put him to the least inconvenience. "No, no," said he, "you shall have the one hundred thousand crowns: I have destined them for you. The world," he continued, "will be very much surprised to see me act differently from what every person imagined: they think that I shall squander away my money, and that it will become as

common at Berlin as stones ; but I shall take care to undeceive them. I shall augment my army, and have every thing on the same footing. I shall show the utmost consideration for the queen my mother ; I shall load her with honours ; but I will never suffer her to interfere with my affairs, and if she ventures to do so, she will soon find her mistake."

I was struck with surprise when I heard this. I hardly knew whether I was dreaming or waking. He next questioned me as to the state of our territory. I gave him the detail of it. He then said to me, "When your blockhead of a father-in-law dies, I advise you to turn off all the court, and live on the footing of ordinary nobility, for the sake of paying off your debts. You really can have no use for so many people about you, and you ought to reduce the wages of those whom you cannot dispense with retaining. You were accustomed to live at Berlin on four dishes ; you want nothing more here, and I shall send for you now and then to Berlin, which will reduce the expence of your table and housekeeping."

My heart had been long swelling ; and at this last indignity I burst into tears. "Why do you weep ?" said he. "O, you are melancholy ! but you must dispel that gloomy humour. The music awaits us, and I shall banish your

sadness by playing on the flute." He gave me his hand, and conducted me into the other room. I sat down to the harpsichord, which I inundated with my tears. La Marwitz placed herself opposite to me, to prevent others from perceiving my distress.

The fourth day after his arrival he received a message from the queen, conjuring him to return with all haste, as the king was at the last extremity. This news completely overturned me. I loved the king, and I saw clearly from the turn which things were taking that I was no longer to rely on my brother. He was, however, somewhat more kind to me the last two days of his stay. My friendship for him led me to excuse his irregularities, and to believe myself completely restored to his good graces; but the hereditary prince was not deceived, and predicted to me much of what was afterwards but too well verified. My brother set out on the 9th of October, leaving me in a state of great suspense respecting him.

The margrave returned two days afterwards to Bareith. I was much surprised at his appearance. I never in my life saw so great a change in so short a time. His whole countenance was so disfigured that it was not recognizable. He reposed himself a moment with me. All the

time he staid he did nothing but exclaim against his physician, and detail his disease to me. It soon increased to such a degree that he was unable to quit his room. I visited him every day. His humour was quite insupportable, and we suffered tortures and martyrdom from him. We durst no longer speak to any person without the risk of making his people unhappy, and his suspicions led him to imagine we were carrying on intrigues with every person. Laughing was strictly forbidden, and whenever we looked pleased he said 'it was our joy at his illness. To put an end to all these disputes, we no longer saw any person ; and the hereditary prince and myself limited our intercourse to my attendants, who were the only human beings we saw. We dined and supped alone. I wrote, read, and composed music every day. We played at blind man's buff : we danced, and we sung : in short, there was no sort of frolic we had not recourse to for killing the time. But I have hitherto neglected to relate a very interesting event, from a wish not to interrupt the thread of my narrative.

I have already drawn the portrait of the Dowager Margravine of Culmbach, who resided at Erlangen. She had taken a fancy for a certain Count Hoditz, of a great family in Silesia, but

a downright libertine and adventurer. As the conduct of that princess was well known, and that she could not live without some adorer or other, this new intrigue gave no umbrage to the margrave. She preserved even something like decency with her lover in the beginning of their love ; but her passion all of a sudden increased to such a degree that she resolved at once to marry him. The Count managed matters so well that nobody knew of their design till it was accomplished. The two lovers selected a very dark night to escape from the castle. A false key, which they had prepared for that purpose, allowed them to make their way through the garden. Notwithstanding a terrible rain, they walked on foot to a small village in the territory of Bamberg, half a league from Erlangen. The only dress of the margravine was a simple dimity petticoat, and a *pet en l'air* of the same stuff. They found two catholic priests in the village, by whom they were married, after which they returned to Erlangen in the same order they set out. The margravine's secretary, and some of the count's domestics, who followed them, were the witnesses. A few days after the count set out for Vienna. His new spouse presented him with a part of her jewels, and pledged the rest for the expence of his journey.

This adventure made much noise. The secretary of the margravine, foreseeing that he had no longer any fortune to hope from his mistress, acquainted the margrave with the story.

The margrave immediately dispatched Baron Stein to Erlangen to examine into the affair. The margravine at once confessed the marriage. Every effort imaginable was made to convince her of the meanness of her action, and the fatal consequences which it might give rise to ; and offers were made to her to break the marriage, which was not celebrated according to the ceremonies of the church, as the two priests had received no dispensation from the Bishop of Bamberg. All these reasons were vainly urged to her. Her answer was, that she would rather live on dry bread and water with her dear count, than have the empire of the whole universe. When the margrave saw that he could make no impression on her mind, he informed the Duke of Weissenfeld of what had happened. That prince sent one of his ministers to Erlangen ; but all his intreaties and remonstrances were as ineffectual as those of Baron Stein. She left the castle to follow her husband ; but her creditors, who were very numerous, arrested her. To procure her liberty, she gave up all her effects to them. She repaired to Vienna, where she re-

nounced the Lutheran for the catholic faith. She lives there at present in a dreadful state of poverty, despised by every person, and subsisting on the charity of the nobility. Her husband cajoled her so long as she had a farthing remaining. She was obliged to part with every article of her dress for the count's expences, who abandoned her in the most cruel manner.

The commencement of the year 1735 was by no means favourable to the margrave. His health had declined to such a degree that he could no longer quit his bed : a thousand fancies entered his head : he never dreamed of his death, and gave orders every day for plans for the embellishment of Himmeleron. He wished to render it a most magnificent place, and to expend one hundred thousand florins on buildings. I have already spoken of his plan. He changed it, and wished to add commanderies ; and he was to employ certain allodial lands for that purpose. Not content with that, he purchased an immense number of horses, and commissioned different sorts of carriages, wishing to appear, as he said, like a great lord. In a word, if God had not taken him from this world, he would have soon ruined his country, and left us complete beggars. All the persons in office, seeing that he could never recover from his illness, consulted the hereditary

prince. He endeavoured under-hand to delay the buildings of Himmeleron and the plan of the commanderies. There were moments even when the margrave was not in possession of his reason. Affairs went entirely into disorder, and he gave us all the chagrin imaginable. But I shall allow him to repose awhile, that we may see what was going on at Berlin.

The king continued to suffer greatly from the dropsy. His limbs were prodigiously swelled; and he was obliged to hold them perpetually in vessels for the reception of the water which issued from them. His disease was rapidly increasing, and he resolved on the celebration of my sister Sophia's marriage with the Margrave of Schwed. The ceremony was performed on the 7th of January before his bed. He had a tumor upon one of his legs, which induced the physicians to believe that an abscess was forming, and to resolve on an incision. The operation was long and painful; but the king bore it with heroic firmness, and called for a mirror that he might see the operation of the surgeons the better. My brother informed me every post that he had only twenty-four hours to live; but he reckoned without his host, for the quantity of water which he lost, with the skill of his physicians, completely restored him.

The cure was looked upon as a miracle. His convalescence gave me the greatest joy. All my sisters repaired to Berlin to congratulate the king on his recovery. I could only testify my satisfaction by a letter, as it was impossible to think of leaving the margrave in the state in which he then was.

Dying, as that prince was, he wished to confer his new order with ceremony. It was bestowed on all those who were chevaliers. He received the compliments of all the court in bed. The order consisted of a white cross ; in the middle was a redeagle, representing the arms of the family ; and it was attached to a scarlet ribbon, embroidered with gold, and worn round the neck. The star was of silver, and the red eagle in the middle had this device in Latin---*Sincere and constant*. I gave a grand dinner, and a ball in the evening, which lasted only a quarter of an hour.

I was much affected by a letter I received at that time from the Duchess of Brunswick, communicating the death of her husband to me. He had been only a year in the possession of the government. I sincerely regretted him, and I still preserve a tender friendship for the duchess. By his death Prince Charles his son became the reigning prince. My sister was fortunate, if the

loss of so excellent a prince could be esteemed fortunate, for after two years of marriage, and contrary to every expectation, she became reigning princess.

In the mean time the margravé's disease increased to such a degree that he was advised to send for a very able physician from Erfort. The successor of M. de Goekel was named Zeitz. He was a man of talents, whose knowledge was more extensive than his predecessor's, but whose system was equally ridiculous. His character besides was very bad : he was without any religion, and consequently without any restraint. We are not all equally blessed with the same blind faith, and it will generally be found that those who believe the least are the most moral in their conduct ; but a person with an ill-regulated mind, and no religion whatever, is rather a dangerous member of society. The most part of people do not know what they believe : some reject religion because it is in opposition to their passions ; some for the sake of fashion ; and others, that they may have a reputation for talents and wit. These sorts of freethinkers are by no means to my taste ; but I cannot bring myself to condemn those whose object is to investigate the truth, and shake off prejudices ; I am even convinced that those who accustom themselves to

reflect must be virtuous ; for in all inquiries after truth we learn to reason accurately, and in learning to reason with accuracy we also learn to love virtue. But my reflections have drawn me from my subject, to which I return.

M. Juch, the physician sent for, frankly owned to the margrave that he would not get the better of his disease, and that he had but a few weeks to live. Zeitz on the other hand assured him that he would cure him ; and that the margrave should be more inclined to the latter belief was extremely natural, for we always flatter ourselves with the accomplishment of what we hope. He continued therefore to carry through his projects at Himmelcron, and to regulate the commanderies of his order.

The Princess of East Friesland, having learned the sad state in which he was, prepared to visit Bareith, and was already on the road, which greatly alarmed the hereditary prince and myself. It was in her power to do us an incalculable injury by inducing her father to execute a testament in her favour and that of her sister. Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld contrived, however, to inspire the margrave with an idea that if he saw his daughter he would be too much affected by it, and that she would demand a number of things which it would be contrary to the in-

terest of his country to grant, and which it would be very difficult for him to refuse. He was prevailed upon to send a messenger to her with a request not to come. The messenger met her at Halberstadt, half way to Bareith, and she was obliged to return.

The margrave's love for Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld still continued, but she kept her word faithfully, and informed me of all the conversations she had with him. Without her we should have passed our time very unpleasantly, and he would have proceeded to the utmost extremities with us, for he did not treat us like human beings: we endeavoured to support our situation with patience, especially myself, in the hope that our release was at hand. I must, however, do justice to the hereditary prince. I never heard him murmur against his father, except on the day he attempted to beat him, and he always spoke of him in very respectful terms. He perceived that his father's end was approaching. He was very superficially acquainted with his affairs, and held every day secret conferences with M. de Voit, who informed him of the state of his dominions. I knew thoroughly the character of the hereditary prince, and that he would never allow himself to be governed. I resolved that I would inter-

fere in nothing. I have a mortal aversion to intrigues, but yet I resolved to preserve a certain degree of consideration, and that nobody should interfere in what concerned me. I don't know whether M. Voït inspired the prince with an idea that I should govern, or that this idea first occurred to himself; but I perceived that he no longer acted towards me with the same frankness as formerly. I was very uneasy at this, but yet I affected not to perceive it.

La Marwitz said one day to me: "The hereditary prince is yet too impatient to enter into all the details of the regency. I am persuaded that your royal highness will be obliged to assist him. He is yet young, informed of nothing, and totally inexperienced; and I am afraid if he does not follow your advice he will make great mistakes." "I assure you, my dear," said I, "you are very much mistaken; I shall interfere in nothing; and I assure you the prince will never apply to me for my opinion." She appeared quite surprised. The prince at that moment entered my room. She spoke to him nearly in the same terms as she had spoken to me, and I repeated to the prince what I had told Marwitz. He preserved silence, and appeared extremely cold towards me. I

always attributed this change to the affairs with which his head was filled. Hitherto he had never concealed any thing from me, and had communicated his most secret thoughts to me ; but he no longer confided to me his future intentions, and I no longer spoke to him on the subject.

One day when we were at table, a message was brought us from the margrave's that he was in the last agony. We found him stretched on a sofa. He had been seized with a suffocation, which brought him to the verge of the grave, and his pulse was like that of a person at the point of death. He looked at us without saying a word.

An ecclesiastic was sent for, but he appeared displeased at this. The priest delivered a very fine exhortation to him on the state in which he was, told him that he was on the point of appearing before God to render an account of his actions, and advised him to humble himself to his holy will, and he would receive courage to look on death with fortitude. " I have administered justice," said he to the priest ; " I have been charitable to the poor ; I have never been guilty of debauchery with women ; I have discharged the duty of a just and equitable prince ; I have nothing to reproach myself with ;

and I can appear before the tribunal of God with confidence." "We are all sinners," replied the almoner; "and the most righteous of us all sins seven times a-day. When we have done all that is commanded us, we remain still unprofitable servants." We all remarked that he was displeased with this discourse: he repeated more vehemently still: "No; I have to reproach myself with nothing; my people may weep for me as their father." He preserved silence for some moments, after which he begged us to withdraw. He was put to bed again, and we were not a little surprised when we were informed in the evening that he was a great deal better. We also learned that he had sharply reprimanded his domestics for their alarm, and especially for having sent for an ecclesiastic. His illness appeared to be much diminished, but on the 6th of May it increased again to such a degree, that Zeitz, who had always flattered him with his recovery, announced to him his sentence of death. He fell into a profound reverie, and ordered every person to leave him for that day. His weakness was very great.

Next day he sent for the hereditary prince and myself. He made a long exhortation to his son on the manner in which he ought to govern his state, and told me that he had always tenderly

loved me; and that he was sensible of my merit. He conjured me to put his son always in mind of the principles of morals and government which he had then recommended to him; and he wished me every felicity, and begged me to accept a snuff-box as a memorial of him. The hereditary prince and myself fell at his feet. He gave us his benediction, and embraced us both. We burst into tears. I was so much affected with what he had said, that if I could have prolonged his life I would have done it. He then requested of us not to visit him any more till he should be in his last agonies, and addressing himself to me: "I conjure you, madam," said he, "do me that favour." He then sent for my daughter, to whom he also gave his benediction; after which he took leave of all my female attendants, one after another, except Mademoiselle de Sonsfeld, who was unwell. The privy counsellors came next: he made them a long harangue, in which he detailed all the obligations which the country was under to him, and repeated nearly what he had said to the clergyman: he recommended to them strongly to have the good of their country always at heart, and to be attached to their new master, after which he took his last leave of them. He had sufficient strength of mind

to take leave of his whole court, from the prime minister to the lowest of his domestics. I was very much affected; but it cannot be denied that there was a good deal of ostentation in his proceedings, for he carefully pointed out to all of them the care which he had always taken for the good of his country. It will be afterwards seen that he did not yet think himself dying, and that all this was merely theatrical. At the end of this melancholy ceremony, however, he became extremely weak: when it was over he begged us to withdraw.

The physicians informed us he was in such a state that they expected him to die every moment. That we might have it in our power to accomplish the promise we had made him of witnessing his dissolution, we lodged ourselves in an apartment very near to him, and we did not venture to undress ourselves that night.

Next day, finding his weakness increase, he sent for the hereditary prince, and consigned the government to his hands in presence of the council, and gave orders to be no longer importuned with any business whatever. Every morning and evening I repaired to his anti-chamber to learn his situation, for the hereditary prince alone had free access to him at all times. After entrusting him with the govern-

ment, he repented it, and could not forbear treating his son harshly whenever he saw him. He even enquired of several gentlemen of his court, who never quitted him, if his son did not already begin to assume authority, adding, that he no doubt was unable to contain his joy at seeing himself his own master. He was assured, which was very true, that the hereditary prince had sworn to issue no orders while he continued in life, and that he had not yet interfered with any business whatsoever.

His illness was prolonged to the evening of the 16th of May, when we were sent for in haste about nine o'clock. We found every person at prayers in his anti-chamber; his breathing was exceedingly disturbed, and was heard at a great distance, and he seemed altogether to be suffering the most excruciating pain. He said to his son: "My dear son, I am suffocating; I can no longer endure my sufferings, which are beyond human patience to bear." His cries and groans were frightful to hear; thrice he became insensible, and thrice he was restored to consciousness. He spoke to his last moment, and at length expired at half past six in the morning of the 17th of May.

I never was so much shocked in my life: I had never yet seen any person die, and the

image made such an impression on me, that for a long time I could not drive it out of my mind. The hereditary prince was plunged into the deepest despair. We dragged him with the utmost difficulty out of the room, and carried him to his own, where he remained nearly an hour in a state of total insensibility. All the court followed him. After he had somewhat recovered, he was told by M. de Voit that it was necessary for him to confirm the council. The margrave hesitated for some time, and made no answer, but, taking me aside, asked my opinion. I candidly told him that I thought the affair was not so very pressing; that his father had not been dead more than an hour; that it appeared to me a certain decorum was necessary; and that he ought not to show so great an avidity to take possession of the government, but wait till the next day, when he would have time to reflect maturely on the persons he intended to retain. This opinion pleased him. We were both very much worn out, having enjoyed no rest the whole night through, and, in addition, my health was very infirm. To avoid the persecutions and importunities of those people, he withdrew to repose himself for a few hours; but he was so impatient, and so many difficulties were represented to him in allowing the ap-

pointment of the council to be deferred any longer, that he at length confirmed it. It was composed of Baron Stein, Voit, Dobernek, Hesberg, Lanterbach, and Thomas.

The mourning and funeral were next to be arranged, and the council persuaded the margrave that it was their province to regulate those matters. The margrave was very much a novice in all that kind of business, and was under the necessity of relying on whatever was told him. During the three weeks that these gentlemen were assembled they thought of nothing but purchasing cloth: although that department belonged to the marshal of the court, they began to assume the most unsupportable airs, particularly M. de Voit. This man was under the greatest obligations to me. I had supported him with all my influence in the life-time of the late margrave: he was my grand-master, and the duties of that officer required that he should visit me every day. This, however, he dispensed with without making the smallest excuse, which exasperated me very much against him! The body of the margrave was exposed in state, and his obsequies took place on the 31st of May, in the manner he had prescribed before his death, without ceremony, but with the utmost decency. His body

was conveyed to Himmelcron, and deposited in a vault which he had had constructed for that purpose.

We went into full mourning on the 1st of June, which we were to continue for the period of a year. I received that day the usual compliments of condolence from all the court, and we dined for the first time in public: but all this gloomy ceremony, and the decorum which it was necessary to observe, being irksome, we repaired to Brandenbourger, where we remained for some weeks.

M. de Voit visited me one day. He told me he knew that I was displeased because he did not regularly pay his court to me; but he was so occupied that he had not a moment of time to spare: that the council, however, had not forgotten me, and that they had resolved to intercede with the margrave for an augmentation of my revenue, which they had no doubt the margrave would readily grant. This pompous discourse exasperated me exceedingly. I told him very coldly, that if I wanted an augmentation of revenue I should ask the margrave himself for it; that I was very well persuaded he would not refuse me; that I was very much obliged to them for their good intentions, but that I dispensed with their speaking in my fa-

vour, as I could do that myself. He was somewhat disconcerted, and told me that it was not so very agreeable frequently to ask favours for ourselves; but still less so to employ other people to ask for us. “However, that you may ascertain my character,” he said, “know, that even if the margrave were desirous of bestowing an augmentation on me, I should not accept it, as his affairs are too much involved, from the great expence he is obliged to incur, to be able to give me any thing without inconvenience. Besides, sir, I wish to be indebted to no other person but himself for any favours he may grant me, for in no other case should I derive any gratification from them.”

I foresaw very well that the intention of those gentlemen was to place me on the footing of my sister of Anspach, who durst not breathe before them, and who was always obliged to apply to a third person for any favour she wished from her husband. The coolness of the margrave towards me, added to these impressions, gave me a great deal of alarm. I withdrew to my closet with my governess, to whom I unbosomed myself. I burst out into tears: she told me with a shrug that she had the same apprehension with myself; that these gentlemen sufficiently showed that their object was to govern

the margrave themselves; that in order to succeed, it was necessary for them to gain a gradual ascendancy over me, and that their whole time was taken up with trifles, entering into the minutest details, which did not belong to them, and neglecting business of importance. She conjured me to speak to the margrave, and open his eyes; and said that she would, on her part, endeavour to prepare his mind beforehand for what I might be disposed to say to him. I hesitated a long time, but her reasons appeared at last so convincing that I allowed myself to be prevailed upon.

Accordingly, I spoke to the margrave on the subject, but he took the matter amiss, and made use of very harsh terms in answer to me. I am naturally impetuous, though, to a certain extent, I can restrain and moderate my feelings: but I am a woman, and have my weaknesses like others. I came to an open rupture with my husband, and was plunged into such a state of agitation that I fell down senseless on the floor. I was immediately conveyed to bed: my paroxysm was so violent, that it was thought I should immediately expire. The margrave was sent for in haste: he was so much affected with my situation, that his anguish was beyond all bounds. After mutual excuses, and long

explanations, he owned that pains had been taken to fill his mind with distrust and suspicion of me, for which he asked me a thousand pardons. I promised that I would interfere in nothing, but I told him that I hoped in return he would not listen to any unfavourable reports of me, or allow me to be humbled in the manner some people proposed. He answered that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see me act with the same sincerity towards him in future as I had done during the past: that he requested I would always speak my sentiments naturally, and without any disguise to him; and that on his part he would conceal nothing from me, so that we should be on better terms of friendship than ever. He then asked my sentiments on what was then going forward. I told him that I knew no man in the world who had less inclination to be governed by others than himself, but that the ascendancy which he allowed the council to gain over him would soon have the effect of accomplishing what he was anxious to avoid: that he would have some difficulty to extricate himself from their talens when he was fairly entangled; that he would then be obliged to recur to rigorous expedients, to compel them to return to their duty; and that he ought to remember the last words of his father----to keep

his ministers always in subjection, to listen to their counsels, but weigh them well before following them. He remained for some time thoughtful; at last he said to me, "What would you have me do? I must confide in them, for I am acquainted with nothing. I have myself told them that I wished them to engage in more serious matters, and not amuse themselves with trifles; but the constant answer has been that they could not do every thing at once."

Colonel de Reitzenstein had been sent to Berlin, and M. de Hesberg to Denmark. The finances were in such an involved situation that I was obliged to borrow six thousand crowns for the expences of these two embassies. I made a present of it to the margrave. If I could have gratified him at the expence of my life I should have willingly sacrificed it. He, on his part, had every possible consideration for me, and entertained the same sentiment for me which I felt towards him. His heart was so good that he could not bring himself to use a harsh expression to any person whatsoever, or to refuse the smallest favour when it was asked him. This excessive easiness of disposition involved him in many disagreeable predicaments, and was the cause why he made no change in the court upon his accession. All those who were attached

to him repeatedly told him that he ought to get rid in time of all the troublesome and intriguing people in his employment; but he would never consent to this. He neglected none of the duties which he owed to the memory of his father, and discharged none of his domestics, the greatest part of whom he retained, and bestowed offices on others of them. He showed no resentment against those who had chagrined him, and who had created misunderstandings between him and his father. When he was spoken to on the subject, he gave this noble answer: “ *I have forgotten the past, and wish every person in my dominions to live contented and happy.*”

The council strongly disapproved of the margrave's generous conduct towards his father's domestics. They deputed M. de Voit to me. He came in a great flurry to me with the most bitter complaints on this subject from his colleagues and himself. I never heard any thing in my life more impertinent than the whole tenor of his discourse. “ The margrave,” said he, “ has acted in the most unheard-of and unwarrantable manner, in conferring offices and employments without the opinion of his council:” and striking the ground with his cane, he added that the margrave was not authorised to discharge or engage even a scullion without their consent. “ We are all

dishonoured, and we shall go in a body with our complaints to the margrave." I told him I interfered with nothing, and they might act in whatever way they judged best. The margrave was in an adjoining room with my governess, and heard all the discourse of Voit, and he would have broken out against him if he had not been prevented by the governess.

As soon as Voit had gone, he entered my room in a paroxysm of rage, and threatened to dismiss the council, and show his displeasure in every possible way. I continued gradually to pacify him. He then acknowledged the truth of my predictions, and resolved to have recourse to a man of the name of Ellerot, who had been his father's secretary. The late margrave had reposed an unlimited confidence in him towards the end of his life, and entertained the highest opinion of his rectitude. The son, recollecting that this man was thoroughly acquainted with the affairs of his dominions, thought the wisest step he could take was to engage him for the purpose of opposing the imperious undertakings of the council. Ellerot made him soon thoroughly acquainted with every thing, and communicated to him all the plans of the late margrave.

In the mean time, my health began gradually

to improve. We had been obliged to retain Zeitz, our physician, for want of a better. He prescribed the Seltre waters to me, with goats' milk and a great deal of exercise. I learned to shoot, and went every day a hunting with the margrave. I could not walk far, being still too weak. The margrave ordered a carriage to be made for me, from which I could shoot without difficulty. I followed this amusement more for the sake of killing time than animals, for I dislike hunting, and abandoned it whenever I could employ myself otherwise. My ruling passions have always been study, music, and especially the charms of society. I was precluded from gratifying then these passions at this time, as my health would not admit of my former application, and the music and society at this place were detestable.

The campaign of the Rhine went on in the same manner as that of the preceding year, and was passed in nothing but eating and drinking. Twelve thousand Russians were to join the Emperor's army, and to pass through the Upper Palatinate. We made a party to see them, but before setting out we gave audience to the Baron de Pilnitz, who came with the king's compliments of condolence to us.

As this man has made a good deal of noise in

in the world, I will here say something of him : he was author of the *Memoirs* which appeared in his name. They were read to the king, who was so pleased with his description of the court of Berlin, that he expressed a strong desire to see Pilnitz again, who then lived at Vienna on the empress's bounty. He repaired to Berlin, where he contrived to insinuate himself so well into the good graces of the king as to receive a pension of fifteen thousand crowns from him. I knew him well in my youth. His talents were great, and his reading extensive ; his conversation was most agreeable ; his heart was by no means bad, but he possessed neither prudence nor judgment, and involved himself perpetually by his indiscretion. He retained the king's favour to the last, and was present when he drew his latest breath. He was at this time a great resource for us, and contributed highly towards our amusement. We took him along with us to a convent, where we were to pass the night, and near to which, and a small village called Vilsok, the Russian army was next day to pass.

We rose early the next morning, and dined at that place. General Keith, who had the command of that column of the army, having been informed of our presence, sent us immediately a guard of foot soldiers. They were all in boots,

and by way of shewing their respect for us, they put on gaiters above their boots. I never saw any thing more risible than the appearance they exhibited, which struck me the more forcibly as I had been accustomed to the neatness of the Prussian troops, which were always dressed in the most trim and methodical manner. M. Keith paid us a visit immediately on his arrival. This general, who was a native of Scotland, possessed the greatest politeness and the greatest discernment of character. He requested us to stay for a short time, as he had given orders to form his troops in the order of battle. We accordingly went in our carriage to see them. They were all of them little squat men, who cut a very poor appearance on a parade, and who were very irregularly arranged. At my intercession the general pardoned two deserters, who were to have been hung. He ordered them to be brought before my carriage. They prostrated themselves before me, and struck the ground so violently with their heads, that if they had not been Russian heads they would most assuredly have been broken. I saw their priest also, who made me abundance of reverences, and asked my pardon for not having brought their idols along with them, in honour of me. This nation appeared to me to bear a

strong resemblance to the brute part of the creation ; they swallowed mud, and ate poisonous mushrooms and grass, without receiving the slightest injury. On arriving at their quarters, they procured an oven, in which they heated themselves into a strong perspiration, and whilst every pore was open, and they were perspiring in a profuse manner, they threw themselves into cold water, or rolled themselves in the snow in winter for a considerable length of time. This is their sovereign preservation against all diseases. We took our leave of the general, and returned to our convent, from which we set out for Brandenbourg.

I forgot to mention that my birth-day was celebrated on the 30th of August. The margrave made me a most magnificent present of jewels, and gave me the Hermitage, with a considerable augmentation of revenue. I would not receive this augmentation till the following year. During the whole month of August I was employed in improving the roads leading to the Hermitage. I caused a great number of promenades to be made. Every day I went there, and amused myself with making plans for the improvement and embellishment of that place.

We had then a great accession of good company in M. de Baument, a major, and the Count

de Bourkhausen, a captain in the margrave's imperial regiment. The latter was my governess's nephew. Hitherto the margrave, who was very fond of him, had taken the care of his fortune upon himself. He was a young man of the most brilliant talents, but his indiscretion was perfectly insupportable. His father, who was a man of high birth, and of one of the first families in Silesia, contrived somehow or other to spend an estate of four hundred thousand crowns, and to contract in addition to this numerous debts, so that his whole family were ruined, and had no other means of living in Silesia than the charity of the nobility and the assistance of my governess. Since my marriage he had frequently visited Bareith, where he contracted the most violent passion for his cousin La Marwitz, who always treated him with the utmost hauteur. As he was exceedingly impetuous, his despair induced him to commit a hundred extravagant actions, which by no means operated in his favour. I shall afterwards speak more fully of these amours, which are intimately connected with the sequel of my Memoirs.

At that period my governess also sent for her two other nieces De Marwitz. The elder of the two was named Albertina, and the younger Carolina. I shall hereafter mention them by

their Christian names, to distinguish them from their eldest sister. Soon after the arrival of the youngest at Bareith she made a conquest. She was extremely pretty : a bewitching countenance, the finest complexion in the world, and an air of sweetness, drew the attention of every person towards her.

On the margrave's succeeding to the government, he increased my court. The Count de Schoenburg was appointed my chamberlain, and a certain M. de Vesterhagen was named gentleman of the bed-chamber. Schoenburg was the son of a reigning count of the empire, and his father was still alive. He was rich, and all the young women of quality were eager to make a conquest of him. However, all their endeavours were thrown away, and his heart fell a victim immediately to the bewitching eyes of Carolina, with whom he became desperately in love. She was favourably disposed towards him, and they contracted a most intimate friendship or one another, the consequence of which I shall detail in proper time.

As to La Marwitz, I was passionately fond of her, and we concealed nothing from each other. Never was there a greater similarity of character than existed between us ; I could not live without her, nor she without me ; she never took

the smallest step without consulting me, and then enjoyed the approbation of every person.

We all went to the park where the margrave was to have a stag hunt. As it was a German mile from the town, and our company was select, our joy was of the most animated description. We had a ball every day, and we danced for six successive hours, in a payed and very incommodious hall, till all our feet suffered from it. I derived the greatest advantage from this exercise. We were all in the best humour in the world. The margrave was fond of jollity and good company ; his polished and obliging manners made him the idol of every person, and we lived in a state of the most perfect union.

Peace appeared every where to be returning. Negotiations were then on foot between the Emperor and France, which in the winter terminated in a treaty of peace. The Spaniards remained in the possession of the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, taken by them from the emperor. The Duke of Lorraine abandoned his dominions to France, and received in return the grand dutchy of Tuscany. France and Spain acceded to the pragmatic sanction ; and thus repose was re-established in Germany.

As the margrave had not yet received the homage of his state, the ceremony took place at our return to Bareith. The same ceremony was to be repeated at Erlangen. The Bishop of Bamberg and Wirtzburg happened to be then at his magnificent country-house, called Pomersfelde, which is only four German miles distant from it. He invited us to this place as well as the Margrave and Margravine of Anspach, proposing a close union with us for the purpose of establishing a good understanding in the circle.

M. de Bremer, formerly governor of the Margrave of Anspach, was at Bareith. I dispatched him to my sister with my compliments, and to inform her from me that I had heard the bishop was extremely haughty ; that he would set forth the most ridiculous claims to titles, which I foresaw might be attended with unpleasant consequences ; that we were sisters, and possessed the same prerogatives, and were entitled to the same observances ; that I was resolved to act in concert with her, and therefore requested to know what her intentions were ; that every body would have their eyes upon us ; and that I was of opinion we ought not to yield one jot of what we were entitled to. M. de Bremer highly approved of this. We only give the title of *liebden* to bishops and

new princes of the empire, a title of inferior signification to highness, which it is impossible to translate into French. The bishop pretended on the other hand that he was entitled to a more honourable title, and that we were bound to call him Your Grace, otherwise he would not give us the title of Royal Highness. All this I learned privately. I might have made the matter the subject of a previous conference, but I was dissuaded from it, and assured that he would of himself return to his duty.

M. de Bremer set out for Anspach, and brought me a very favourable answer from my sister. She informed me that she would regulate herself in every respect after me, and that she was quite satisfied with the proposal of Bremer. I have always preserved my prerogatives of king's daughter, which the margrave has ever supported. I took this step with his approbation ; and he frequently told me that he had a very bad opinion of people when they forgot their situation.

We set out then in the month of November, and slept at Beresdorf. Next day we made our entry into Erlangen. Several triumphal arches had been constructed ; the magistrates harangued the margrave on his entering the gates of the town, and presented him with the keys ;

and all the citizens and militia were drawn up along the streets. The margrave and myself were in a mourning coach. We were both more than satisfied with the numerous harangues which we received that day.

Next day he received the homage. We had a dinner of state, and a drawing-room in the evening. We staid a few days at Erlangen, and set out from thence for Pommersfelde.

We arrived at five o'clock in the evening. The bishop received us at the foot of the steps in the front of the house, attended by his whole court. After the first compliments, he presented to me his sister-in-law, the Countess of Schoenborn, and her niece, of the same name, abbess of a chapter of Wirtzburg. "I beseech you, madam," said he to me, "to consider them as your servants; I sent for them purposely to do the honours of my house." I received these ladies with the utmost politeness, after which the bishop conducted me to my apartment. He ordered seats to be brought us. I threw myself into an easy chair, and we were beginning to enter on conversation when the two countesses entered the room. I was surprised to see that my governess did not accompany them, but I affected not to perceive it. My dress was a good deal disordered, and I made

use of that pretext to withdraw for a moment. The bishop and his ladies also withdrew.

When I was by myself, I sent for my ladies, and asked my governess why she had not followed me. "Because," said she, "I did not wish to expose myself to any rude treatment, for those countesses treated me with the utmost unkindness, and would not say a single word to me; they passed with a high head before me, and except for the assistance of a gentleman of the court, whose name I was unacquainted with, I should never have found out your apartment." "I am glad at this," said I to her: "the margrave has given me permission to support my rights, and I am very well informed that my governess ought not to yield precedency to any person lower than a reigning countess of the empire, which Madame de Schoenborn is not, and can have no pretension to be."

The margrave told me that I ought to speak on the subject to Voit, who, being my grand-master, according to the functions of his office, ought to make the proper representations in my name. Accordingly, I sent for him and explained my intentions to him. M. de Voit was the greatest poltroon perhaps in the universe; he was always full of terrors and difficulties: he put on a face a yard long---"Your royal high-

ness," said he, " is not aware of the consequences of the order you give me: we are met here for the purpose of establishing union among the members of the circle of Franconia; and is that a proper time to dispute about such insignificant trifles? The bishop will take this matter up in a high tone; he will show his displeasure, he will not renounce his pretensions, and if you are as resolute as himself, it will become an affair of the empire." Here I burst out into a loud laugh: " An affair of the empire!" said I. " very well, so much the better: it is the first time that ladies ever had any thing to do with their deliberations, and it will at least be something new for us." The margrave shrugged up his shoulders, and looked at him with an air of compassion. " But whatever the consequence may be," I added, " I request you to inform the bishop that I entertain so high an esteem for him, that I should be sorry to be under the necessity of disobliging him; that he ought to have taken better measures to avoid unpleasant consequences; that he could not be ignorant of the prerogatives of king's daughters, having himself passed his whole life at Vienna; and that though I esteem it an honour to be the wife of a margrave, I am not disposed to relinquish the most insignificant of my rights on that account."

M. de Voit still started a great many difficulties, but the margrave told him to dispatch ; that the hour was late ; and that he wished the matter speedily arranged.

M. de Voit, in consequence of these directions, spoke in my name to M. de Rottenhan, the bishop's grand equerry. They held a long conference together, in which it was at length resolved that the two countesses should retire as soon as they should have received my sister.

They had scarcely come to this decision, when the court of Anspach arrived. I sent a message to her instantly with my compliments, and to inform her that I should pay her a visit as soon as she was by herself. I was by no means obliged to pay her the first visit, as my right of seniority gave me precedency over all my other sisters, and the margrave had a right to precede the Margrave of Anspach. I had thus a double claim of preference ; but as we were all of the same blood, I had never wished to avail myself of my rights. My sister returned me for answer that she would visit me, and she accordingly entered a few moments afterwards with the margrave. The behaviour of both appeared extremely cold to me : my sister was pregnant. I expressed my joy at that circumstance, and made all possible advances to her, but she ap-

peared insensible to all my endeavours. I told her what I had done with respect to the two countesses, but I could draw no answer from her. On the bishop's announcing himself, she withdrew. She took that time to have the gentlemen who composed the bishop's court presented to her : she spoke to them respecting the countesses, and assured them she strongly condemned my proceedings ; that she was not so haughty as me, and that she would have never suffered what had taken place had she been present. Her conduct was generally disapproved of.

We called on her before sitting down to table : I was seated at the head : she refused to sit beside me, and placed the bishop between us. She gave him the title of highness on all occasions, suitably or unsuitably, notwithstanding our previous agreement. For my part, I resolved to adhere to my determination, and not to give way in the slightest degree ; but while I displayed this firmness, I paid every possible respect and attention to the bishop and his court, and showed him all the politeness in my power. It is time for me to draw his portrait.

The family of Schoenborn is well known to be one of the first and most illustrious of Germany : it has given many electors and bishops to the empire. The bishop of whom I am now

speaking was educated at Vienna: his talents and capacity advanced him to the situation of chancellor of the empire: this office he held for a long time. The bishopricks of Wirtzburg and Bamberg having become vacant by the death of their bishop, the court of Vienna took that opportunity of rewarding the services of the vice-chancellor, and by means of the corruption employed on that occasion he was elected prince and bishop of those two bishopricks. He may justly pass for a great genius and a great politician: his character completely corresponds with this last qualification, for he is cunning, subtle, and dissembling; his manners are haughty, his wit is by no means agreeable, being too pedantic; however, he improves upon longer acquaintance, and especially when there is any desire to profit by his information. I was fortunate enough to gain his approbation, and have frequently been four or five hours with him tête-à-tête. I was never weary in his company, for he always communicated many things to me, of which I was before uninformed: his genius may be well said to be universal. There is hardly a subject that we have not discussed together.

On rising from table, I re-conducted my sister to her apartments, and the bishop showed me to mine. The cold was excessive. I threw myself

in bed immediately and fell asleep. I had scarcely slept for an hour, when I was awaked by the margrave, who told me that an attempt was making to force my room door. The door opened into a corridor, where a hussar had been placed. I heard that an attempt was making, in good earnest, to force open the lock. We called our people softly to see who it was, and they found the hussar still busied with his work. He asked the margrave's pardon, begging him for the love of God not to ruin him; and the margrave was generous enough to forgive him.

Next morning the first thing I did was to visit the whole of the castle. Pommersfelde is a large building, of which the body is detached from the wings. The body has four pavilions: it is of a square figure, and appears at a distance a mass of stones. The exterior is extremely defective, but on the first entrance into the court the idea previously formed of the building is found to be erroneous, and an air of grandeur is then for the first time discovered. We first ascend five or six steps to enter a low and narrow portal, which very much disfigures the building. A magnificent staircase next presents itself, and discovers the whole height of the palace, the vault of the staircase being only supported by a sort of equilibrium:

the ceiling is painted in fresco ; the railing is of white marble adorned with statues. This staircase leads to a grand vestibule paved with marble, from which we enter into a hall. The hall is ornamented with gilding and paintings of the first masters, such as Rubens, Guido Reni, and Paul Veronese ; however, the whole of this decoration was not to my taste, it had more the air of a chapel than of a hall, and we looked in vain for that noble style of architecture which consists in the union of taste with magnificence. This hall conducts to a range of two suits of apartments, all adorned with pictures : one of the rooms contains a piece of tapestry of leather, held in high estimation, being painted by Raphael. I was struck with the gallery of pictures. The amateurs of painting may there gratify their taste. As I am exceedingly fond of painting, I remained there several hours examining all the pictures.

I dined this and the following days in private with my sister, our governesses, and two wives of privy counsellors of Anspach. The bishop and the margraves went a hunting every day, and did not return till five in the evening : I grew exceedingly tired of my situation, being shut up the whole day long with my sister, who was always in bad humour. When the princes re-

turned, we assembled in the hall to witness what was called a *serenade*. These serenades are abridgments of operas. The music was detestable: our ears were assailed by the performance of five or six females and an equal number of male Germans, whose throats for four successive hours gave utterance to sounds altogether unrivalled in any midnight convocation of cats; and what served to heighten our torment, the cold was so excessive that we were quite benumbed. We afterwards supped, and went to bed at three in the morning, fatigued to excess with having done nothing the whole day long.

A new species of pleasure was proposed for us quite in the ecclesiastical style. We were to dine at Bamberg, and examine the church and relics. I informed my sister that if she went I should also go, but if she refused this invitation, I should remain to keep her company. She returned for answer, that she should very gladly go to Bamberg, and that I ought also to accept the offer. The hunting was to take place in that neighbourhood, and the princes were to repair there to dine along with us. I was awoke at seven in the morning, and told that it was then time to dress for my journey; that we should be four hours on our road to Bamberg; and as the chace would not consume

much time, we should have no leisure to see any thing if I did not set out immediately. I rose with a good deal of ill-will, for I was unwell: my health, which was yet but precarious, and by no means thoroughly established, having suffered very much from excessive cold and fatigue.

I called on my sister, and was not a little surprised to find her still in bed. She told me that she was indisposed, and could not go to Bamberg; she looked very well, however, and was working in bed. I told her that I should have considered it a great favour if she had given me earlier information of her condition; that I had sent to know how she was, and had been answered that she was very well. Madame de Bodenbrock, her governess, shrugged up her shoulders, and made signs to me that it was merely caprice. She employed her rhetoric so successfully that she persuaded her to rise and dress. Her toilette was the most tedious I ever witnessed; it lasted at least two hours.

Two magnificent state coaches were prepared for us. The first was for me, and the second for my sister. I asked her if she had any objection to our going together; she answered she did not wish it. "Get into your coach then," said

I. "God forbid," said she; "you know you have the right of precedency, and I shall take care not to violate it." "I stand on no ceremony with my sisters," said I, "and I shall always avoid all disputes on such subjects with them."

The bishop's grand-marshal, a man possessed of a due share of stupidity, took me by the hand and said to me: "This is your carriage, madam; have the goodness to enter it, for it is prepared for you." I entered it with my governess, and had not even time to ask for my pelisse. We went at a most tedious pace. We were almost frozen to death: our hands and feet it was beyond our power to move. I ordered the coachman to quicken his pace, and he executed my orders so well, that in three hours we arrived at Bamberg.

We were forthwith conducted to the church, where the priests had made a display of their relics. We saw a piece of the cross set in gold, two of the vessels used at the wedding at Cana, several of the bones of the Virgin, a small fragment of Joseph's coat, and the skulls of the Emperor Frederick and the Empress Cunegonda, the patrons of Bamberg, and founders of the chapter. The empress's teeth appeared from their length like the tusks of a wild boar.

I was so benumbed that I could not walk;

and I re-entered my coach to repair to the castle. They conducted me to the apartment prepared for me, where I experienced pains in every part of my body. I was undressed by my attendants, who by means of rubbing me all over for a considerable time brought me somewhat to myself.

On my sister's arrival I sent to enquire into the state of her health, excusing myself for not calling on her on account of my being indisposed. She answered that she was very much fatigued, and wished to throw herself on her bed to procure a little sleep; and she begged me not to call upon her. I sent several times, and was always told that she was reposing. From the care I took I began to be somewhat recovered; and to pass the time, which hung very heavy on my hands, I began to play at tocadille.

The princes did not return till six o'clock. They dined at a separate table; and our's was served in my room. My sister came, and seemed from her appearance displeased. All her court, and especially the ladies, appeared discontented, and affected to say severe things, which I pretended not to understand, considering it beneath me to attend to it.

Afterudin er my sister accompanied me to a closet, where we took coffee together. I told

her I perceived she was displeased with me, and I requested her to explain the cause of it, and if I had been unfortunate enough to offend her in any thing, I was ready to make her every possible reparation. She answered very coolly that she was not displeased with me: that she was unwell, and consequently could not be in very good humour. She then supported herself against a table, and began to muse. I seated myself opposite to her, and imitated her example.

The bishop extricated us from this silent society; he re-conducted me to my coach, which I entered with my governess. "I am quite in despair," said she. "The devil I believe has broke loose at the Court of Anspach. My sister and La Marwitz have been used in a shocking manner. Madame de Zoch took the liberty of saying a thousand impertinent things to them. I arrived merely in time to prevent them from pulling one another by the ears. They said openly, that your royal highness gave orders to the coachman who drove the Margravine of Anspach to proceed at the most furious rate that she might miscarry; and they are all pitying that poor princess, who, according to their account, is quite bruised with the jolting of the carriage."

I was quite enraged at hearing this fine piece of news, and I wished to receive satisfaction for the calumny spread against me; but my governess made me so many representations on the subject, that I consented to take no notice of it.

My sister declining supper, I also sent an excuse to the bishop. My attendants came to me with an account of this affair. I soon perceived that if we did not behave with more discretion the affair would spread farther, and would afford matter for public conversation. I gave orders therefore to all my ladies to drop the subject, and to continue to treat the ladies of Anspach with politeness, concluding very properly that all the blame of the disturbance which they wished to give rise to would fall upon themselves. This conjecture was right. The whole court was informed next day of what had passed, and it was publicly whispered that the privy-counsellors' wives finding the wine good had swallowed rather more than they ought to have done. The Margrave of Anspach himself was very much displeased with the impertinent things said by them respecting me, and reprimanded the authors in a very sharp manner.

Two days afterwards we took our departure, and returned to Erlangen. I experienced at that

time a small domestic misfortune in the death of a little Bologna dog, which I had kept for nineteen years. I bore a great affection for the animal, which had been the companion of all my distresses; and felt its loss very sensibly. Brutes in my opinion are a species of reasonable beings. I have seen some so sensible, that they wanted nothing but language to express their thoughts with clearness. The system of Descartes on this subject appears to me extremely ridiculous. I respect the fidelity of a dog, which possesses in this respect a decided superiority over man, by nature so mutable and inconstant. Were I to examine this matter thoroughly, I should undertake to prove that the brute creation possesses more reason than men; but I am writing my own memoirs, and not the eulogium of animals, although this may very well be excused by way of epitaph for my little dog. We staid a few days at Erlangen, and then returned to Bareith.

Nothing very extraordinary took place during the year 1736. I have already mentioned the restoration of peace between the emperor and France, which saddled us with the passage of the Austrian troops. This passage was very expensive to the princes of the empire, who, contrary to every thing like equity or justice.

were obliged to maintain the troops on their return. As the evil was without remedy, we endeavoured to draw all the advantage we could from it. We had every day a world of people about us. The Austrian officers were for the most part very amiable; and many of their wives, whom I saw, were equally so. We diverted ourselves wonderfully well. We had a ball almost every evening, and my health began to recover.

I gave a magnificent entertainment in the grand hall of the castle, on the 10th of May, the margrave's birth-day. I ordered a Mount Parnassus to be erected. A very good singer whom I engaged represented Apollo; nine ladies, magnificently dressed, were the muses; and underneath Parnassus we had a theatre. Apollo sung a cantata, and gave orders to the muses to celebrate the happy day, who immediately descended from their station and danced a ballet. Beneath the theatre there was a table for one hundred and fifty guests, very magnificently decorated. The remaining part of the hall was ornamented with devices and verdure. We represented all the gods of antiquity. I never saw any thing more splendid than our fête, which met with very general approbation.

Since the margrave had taken Ellerot his

affairs began to wear a new appearance. We experienced the advantage of a great increase of revenue, which had been concealed from our knowledge, and which, according to every appearance, the gentlemen of the Chamber of Finance had employed for their own interest. The margrave dismissed all the members of that chamber, and named others in their place. Ellerot found means also to revive some old claims which the Margraves of Bareith had immemorally possessed, and he was fortunate enough to recover payment of them; so that in this way we became rich all of a sudden.

One war was put an end to this year only for the purpose of commencing another. Russia was at war with the Turks, and had granted the twelve thousand men already mentioned by me to the emperor, solely on the condition that he would break the truce concluded between him and the Mahomedans, and attack them in Hungary. All the emperor's troops began to march. This event may be considered as the commencement of the fall of the House of Austria.

Nearly at the same time the emperor celebrated the nuptials of the Archduchess Maria Theresa, his eldest daughter, with the new Great Duke of Florence.

The Princess of Wales also married this year the Prince of Saxe Gotha. This marriage was altogether the work of the king, his father; the heart of the prince himself being totally indifferent towards the princess, who was neither beautiful nor witty. He lived, however, very comfortably with her. But to return to my own concerns.

We went to pass the fine season at Brandenbourger. The margrave was there seized with a general debility, and the most violent headaches, which, however, did not prevent him from leaving the house, but which gave me the most distressing alarm for him. There is no such thing as perfect felicity in this world. I enjoyed every thing I could wish for; but my fears for so precious a life dispelled every other subject of contentment. The physician filled me with apprehension lest the margrave's present situation should be the forerunner of an apoplexy. I was sometimes plunged into such a state of despair that I was quite insensible to every thing. I was at length relieved from my apprehensions. He was seized with hemorrhoids, which relieved him very much. As this is a disease which is only dangerous when not attended to, and as it might contribute to

save the margrave, who was extremely sanguine, I received no small degree of joy from its appearance.

Since the prince's succession to the government, he had neglected no means to conciliate the friendship of the King and Queen of Denmark. The queen being a princess possessed of an appanage, and the daughter of a cadet of the family, had received no portion, this being a stipulation of the House of Brandenburg, otherwise appanages and provisions would go on to all eternity, to the infallible ruin of the house in the long-run. The queen told the margrave if he would give her what she was entitled to she would recompense him fourfold. The margrave relying on her word, granted her request.

The king and queen were to go to Altona, and stay there for some time. They invited the margrave to join them, and he was given to understand that the queen had some great design in contemplation, and wished to testify her gratitude to him in a signal manner. Some arrangements which the margrave was under the necessity of making retarded his departure. The King of Denmark sent a messenger to inform him that he would not stay more than fifteen days at Altona, and that if he had any wish to see him he must hasten his journey.

The margrave took his departure, resolved to travel night and day that he might be in time to see the king, his uncle. The road to Altona leads through the dominions of the king, my father, and through the Town of Halberstadt, twelve or thirteen miles distant from it. The margrave stopt there to dine with General Marwitz. He learned that the king was expected in three or four days to review the troops in that neighbourhood; and he had to choose between seeing the King of Denmark or the King of Prussia. The dissatisfaction with the conduct of the latter felt by the margrave, and the promise given by him to the other, as well as the advantages he expected to derive from him, induced him to continue his journey. He explained to General Marwitz the motives of his conduct, requesting him that if he should happen to be at Berlin on his return he would not fail to pay his respects to him there.

He left Halberstadt that afternoon, and arrived next day at Brunswick, where he dined. He was very well received by his old friend the duke and my sister. From thence he continued his journey to Zelle, where he found letters from Altona, informing him that the King of Denmark had been taken dangerously ill. He was on this information induced to refresh him-

self at Zelle, and he arrived a few days afterwards at Altona.

He was received by the grand-marshal and the whole court in a house prepared for him, as there was not sufficient room in that occupied by the king. His reception from the queen, his uncle and aunt, was very affectionate. The queen had been once a great beauty, but from the fatigues and inconveniences experienced by her, the remains of that beauty were now alone discernible. The Margravine of Culmbach, her mother, who had never quitted her since her marriage, completely governed her, and consequently the king and court also. This princess possessed very good talents; her plan for preserving the royal favour was to plunge the king and queen in bigotry. The king was naturally fond of pleasure and good company; and to overcome this propensity, she objected to the most innocent enjoyments. The king has many good qualities, but his mind is extremely weak, and the queen does not possess a whit more talent than himself, so that the margravine could not have fallen upon dispositions better calculated to receive her doctrines without opposition. Their court still preserved an air of grandeur, but it was in reality nothing but a cloister, entirely dedicated to prayer and ennui.

The margrave told me that time never before hung so heavy on his hands. He was loaded with honours and fine words; but they forgot to perform their promises to him, and he returned, very well pleased that he was at last out of their tedious court.

As the king had by that time set out for Prussia, the margrave went straight to Bareith, notwithstanding the advice of my brother that he should wait at Brunswick till his return, which was expected in six weeks. I received the following very unkind letter from my brother, on the subject of the margrave's journey, altogether in a different style from that which he used formerly to write to me:---

“ My dear sister, I have read your letter, but if you wish me to express myself with my usual frankness, I must tell you that I can never approve of the margrave's passing within ten or twelve miles of a place where the king was to be without paying his respects to him. To tell you the truth, it is spoken of as a piece of rudeness, and to that opinion I cannot but subscribe. However the margrave may atone for it; he has only on his return to pass through Berlin when the king returns from Prussia; for I own I am nowise astonished that the king is displeased with his manner of behaving; it

shews too little consideration for a king, who is also his father-in-law. I am very doubtful of all the advantages which the margrave hopes to derive from the King of Denmark: he will never get any thing like what he has received from the king, possessing a treasure like you. I could say a good deal more on this subject; but I shall conclude with assuring you, &c."

Although the conclusion of this letter in some degree atoned for the commencement, it appeared very harsh on the whole. The expression *rudeness* seemed to me altogether unwarranted, and the whole style was something new to me. My brother had quite changed towards me since his return from the Rhine: a certain stiffness and embarrassment were visible in all his letters, which sufficiently shewed that his heart was no longer the same. I felt this very keenly; my affection for him was not diminished, and I had nothing to reproach myself with. I bore all, however, with patience, flattering myself that I should one day recover his friendship.

I passed my time very agreeably at Brandenbourger during the margrave's absence, if it were possible to be happy in the absence of those we love. In reality, I experienced no true satisfaction except when I was beside him, and in his

absence I endeavoured rather to forget myself than to enjoy pleasure. I had very good company, with whom I endeavoured to pass the time, and I spent the mornings and a few hours in the afternoon in reading and music.

I have already drawn a portrait of La Grumkow in the beginning of these memoirs, in which among her other numerous defects I laid coquetry to her charge. During the time she had been with me she had had many lovers, which disposed me very much against her; but as she had always been somewhat attentive to outward propriety, I wished to avoid taking any notice of her conduct. Her impertinence towards me became altogether insupportable. She never appeared before me but at meal-times, passing the day and the greatest part of the night with M. de Vesterhagen, a gentleman of my bed-chamber. This gentleman, though married, was desperately in love with her, and made her valuable presents, which she pretended to receive from her father. Although she had no attachment to me, and not the smallest desire to discharge the duties of her situation, she was extremely jealous of La Marwitz, and endeavoured to humble her on all occasions. I saw that I was not in a situation to restrain her conduct, from the appearances I was still

obliged to observe towards her uncle; and I merely shewed my displeasure by rallying her occasionally on her conduct, in the hope of effecting her reformation: but her passion triumphed over her reason, and prevented her from renouncing her lover. As the consequences of this intrigue were extremely unpleasant for La Marwitz, whom she accused of informing me of it, and as it has some connexion with my Memoirs, I shall give an account of it in due time.

The margrave at last arrived, on the 6th of July. My joy on seeing him again was unbounded, and he was very well satisfied to find himself once more under his own roof. My birth-day was celebrated by a charming fête, which he gave me in a spacious garden belonging to the castle. The garden was entirely illuminated; and a theatre was constructed, the scenery of which was composed of large lime-trees. Diana and her nymphs made their appearance; and a species of pastoral was represented. A saloon, to which we ascended by four steps, was opposite to the theatre, and the exterior of it was so well illuminated, that it appeared an entire ball of fire. All the borders of the garden were illuminated with lamps of different colours, which produced a charming effect.

The day after this fête we set out for the

Hermitage, of which I shall here give a description.

It is situated on a mountain. The access to it is by an avenue along a causeway constructed by the margrave. At the entrance of the Hermitage appears Mount Parnassus, a vault supported by four columns, on the top of which Apollo and the nine muses are placed, from every one of whom a *jet d'eau* proceeds. The vault is so ingeniously constructed that it has all the appearance of a real rock. On one side you see a bower, which leads to another artificial rock, surrounded with trees, which contains six *jets d'eau*. By a small door below this rock we enter a sort of cave, which leads to a grotto. The grotto is ornamented with the rarest and most beautiful shells, and is lighted by a dome above; in the middle of the grotto there is a large *jet d'eau*, and six cascades around it: the floor, which is of marble, throws also up water, so that it is extremely easy to deceive people by inundating them, when they are once in. On each side of the grotto are two flights of steps, which lead to two suites of apartments, each composed of three small chambers in miniature.

On leaving the grotto we enter a small court, surrounded with artificial rocks, intermingled with trees and bushes; and a large *jet d'eau* in

the middle diffuses a continual coolness. These rocks conceal the wings of the house, which are each composed of four small cells, or eight small chambers, all of which contain a wardrobe and bed-room. From this court we proceed to the body of the house. We first enter a saloon, of which the ceiling is very well painted and gilt. This saloon is entirely lined with Bareith marble: the floor is of grey marble, and the pilasters are of red; the cornices and capitals are gilt: the floor is inlaid with different sorts of marble to be found here. My apartments are to the right. The first room contains in the ceiling a representation of the Roman matrons when they saved the city of Rome from pillage; the ground of what surrounds this piece of painting is blue: all the relievos are gilt and silvered over: the ceiling is of fine black marble, and the compartments of fine yellow marble: the tapestry is yellow damask, with silver lace. From thence we enter the wings added by me, namely, a chamber, of which the ceiling is in bass-relief, and completely gilt: the subject of the painting is the story of Chelomida and Cleobrontas: the ground of the wainscoting is white, and the reliefs are all gilt: the glass of the mirrors and that above the fire-place is of the very best kind. The tapestry of this room

is a stuff of a blue and golden ground, excessively rich, of which all the flowers are of wrought silk : nothing can be more beautiful. A little closet comes next, lined with china, which my brother made me a present of : it cost a great deal of money, and I believe is the only thing of the kind in Europe, at least it was given to my brother as such : the ground is beaten gold, and all the figures are in relief : the ceiling, the glasses, and every thing else in this closet, are in unison : all who have ever seen it have been enchanted with it. Adjoining to this closet, turning to the right, is the music-room : it is entirely of fine white marble, with green compartments : in each compartment appears a musical trophy, gilt, and very well executed : the portraits of several beautiful persons, executed by the most able masters, are placed above these trophies, and enchased in the wall in ornamented and gilt frames. The ground of this ceiling is white : the reliefs represent Orpheus playing on his lyre, and all the animals flocking round him : all the reliefs are gilt. My harpsichord, and all my musical instruments, are in the room, and at the end of it is my study, which is varnished, with a brown ground, and is painted in miniature with natural flowers. I am engaged in writing these Memoirs there at this moment,

and many an hour I pass in it reflecting upon different subjects. The music-room leads me by another door to that in which I dress, which is quite plain, and from thence I enter my bedroom: the bed is blue damask, laced with gold, and the tapestry is of satin. My wardrobe adjoins it, which is extremely convenient. The interior of the margrave's apartments is the same as mine, but differently decorated. The first of his rooms is painted with a species of varnish, invented by myself; the painting, which is very fine, represents the whole of the history of Alexander, which I caused to be copied from the plates of Le Brun: they are merely pictures of the size of the walls, painted in water colours on paper pasted on canvas, which I ordered to be varnished for the sake of preservation. These pictures have been admired by all connoisseurs. The ground of the ceiling and the wainscoting is white, and the ornaments are gilt. The painting of the ceiling represents Alexander throwing incense in the fire, and Aristotle reproving him for doing it with too much profusion. The wainscoting of the second room is of a deep brown ground: all the reliefs are military trophies of all the nations of the world; all which, as well as the borders of the ceiling, are gilt. In the middle of the ceiling Artax-

erxes is seen receiving Themistocles : the tapestry represents the whole of the history of the Grecian general. The adjoining closet contains many beautiful pictures ; the wainscoting is alone relieved with gilt ornaments : the ceiling contains the history of Mutius Scevola. The room adjoining is lined with Vienna Porcelain painted in miniature : the ceiling represents Leonidas defending Thermopylæ. The bed-room is of green damask laced with gold. It will be thought singular perhaps that I should have chosen all these subjects from history for the ornament of my ceiling, but I love whatever speaks to the eye : the plan of all these historical subjects might perhaps have been better supplied by emblems in the modern manner ; but they would not have afforded so great pleasure to the eye. I return to my description : The outside of the house is nowise ornamented, and might be taken for a ruin surrounded by rocks : it is in the midst of lofty trees. Before the house is a small parterre bordered with flowers, at the extremity of which is a cascade, which appears cut through the rock, and which flows to the bottom of the mountain, where it falls into a large bason : two alleys of tall lime-trees border it on each side, and steps have been cut in the sod, to render the descent more easy.

There are two resting places, in the midst of which are *jets d'eau* surrounded with seats covered with turf. Ten thick alleys of lime-trees prevent the sun from ever penetrating to the house. Every road through the wood leads to a hermitage or something new. Every one has his hermitage, and they are all different from each other: from mine there is seen the ruins of a temple, built on the plans which remain to us of ancient Rome. I have consecrated it to the muses. It contains portraits of all the famous philosophers of the latter ages, such as Descartes, Leibnitz, Locke, Newton, Bayle, Voltaire, Maupertuis, &c. Adjoining the small saloon, which is of an orbicular form, there are two small rooms and a little kitchen, ornamented by me with the antique porcelain of Raphael. On going out of these small rooms we enter a little garden, in the fore part of which there is a view of a portico: the garden is surrounded with a covered alley, in which we can read during the greatest heat of the sun, without feeling the smallest inconvenience. On ascending higher, the view is arrested by a new object: it is a theatre built of hewn stone, the vaults of which are all detached, so that an opera may be performed in the open air. I shall not attempt to describe it with the minuteness of the other

parts of my property. If I were to give a drawing of it, it would appear a place unique in its kind. The river runs quite round the bottom of the mountain, and there are magnificent promenades and views in every direction. As I write this description in the state in which it is at present, in the year 1744, I shall continue to remark all the additions which I may subsequently make.

Perhaps I have extended the description to too great a length, but I write for my amusement, and not with the smallest idea that these Memoirs will ever be printed; perhaps I may even, one day or other, make a sacrifice of them to Vulcan; perhaps I may give them to my daughter; for, on this subject, I am quite undecided. I repeat once more, I write for my amusement, and I take a pleasure in concealing nothing of whatever has happened to me, not even my most secret thoughts.

The war re-commenced at the end of this year between the emperor and the Turks: it was a most unjust war, but to discover the cause of it we must go somewhat back.

I have already mentioned that the Russians sent ten thousand men into Germany to the assistance of the emperor against France. The Empress of Russia was then at war with the Turks, and granted these troops to the head of

the empire, on condition that after the peace he would make a division in her favour, and break the truce concluded by him with the Ottomans. In the year 1736 the emperor began to fulfil his engagement by marching troops towards Hungary. The commencement of the campaign was fortunate: the Turks not expecting any attack, and having no army in that quarter, retreated, and abandoned the town of Nessa without a blow; but in the year 1737 their fortune experienced a change. General Sekendorff had the command of the imperial army, and the avarice and bad conduct of that general totally ruined it. He was tried for his behaviour at the end of the year, and condemned to end his days in the fortress of Spielberg, by far too lenient a punishment for him. I could not help being struck with the fate of this man, to whom I owed so much uneasiness, and who had been, I may say, the scourge of all the courts at which he ever resided. Now, however, I could not help compassionating him, and I can truly say that I never felt even a moment's joy at his downfall. We shall see him make his appearance once more on the stage: but I return to my own concerns.

We began the year 1737 by receiving a visit from the Prince of Bamberg. The court appeared in all its lustre on this occasion. I had

ordered many alterations in the castle in the apartments of the margrave and my own. Our chapel was very good in consequence of the acquisition of several able musicians and excellent singers from Italy. Several strangers who had entered our service assisted us in doing the honours of the court, and contributed to render it less gloomy than formerly. All who visited us were charmed with it, and the bishop departed very well satisfied with his stay.

My health, though at all times very delicate, began however to improve. The whole country passionately wished that I should give them heirs. I was advised to make use of baths. As I knew my temperament, I clearly foresaw that they would not agree with my health; but the physician having been gained over, I was obliged to yield to the desires of the people. The baths of Ems being the weakest in Germany, I chose them in preference: but the season was not yet come. We repaired to Erlangen to stay there till the proper period for our setting out.

We passed our time very agreeably there, and I saw there for the first time a *pastorale*, in which the famous Signor Zaghini was highly admired, every person present being enchanted with the beauty and sweetness of his voice. All our thoughts were at that time occupied with

pleasure alone, when an unforeseen event occurred to trouble our satisfaction---this was the death of my nephew, the hereditary Prince of Anspach.

I have already spoken of the unhappy life led by the margrave and my sister. Their dissension had lately risen to a much greater height, partly owing to the Grand-Marshal de Sekendorff, who was perpetually stirring up the margrave against his wife. The death of the prince opened a vast field for the exercise of his malignity. He attributed it entirely to my sister, and succeeded so well in irritating the mind of that prince against her, that he swore never to see her more, and to be separated from her: he treated her even with great indignity, and allowed the common domestics to say the harshest things possible to her. All the court were prohibited from visiting her; in a word, every possible means of mortifying her was tried. This state of things had lasted three weeks before coming to my knowledge; at length I was secretly informed of it by some well-meaning persons of the court, who entreated me to repair to Anspach to put an end to the disorders. I did not hesitate to follow their advice.

The margrave was in the country, endeavouring to console himself for the loss of his son in

the arms of his mistress. On his learning my arrival at Anspach he returned. I found my sister bathed in tears, and so changed in appearance as to be scarcely recognizable. The margrave did not so much as look at her: he could not dispense with eating in our company; but the pain which she gave him was quite evident in his whole physiognomy. I was in no haste to speak to him till I should have well informed myself of all the circumstances which had taken place. I soon perceived, from the accounts I received, that M. de Sekendorff was the author of the whole mischief; I applied therefore to him to bring about a reconciliation. The tone of mildness and firmness at the same time in which I spoke to him gave rise perhaps to several reflections in his mind. He promised to use every effort to effect a reconciliation, and he kept his word. Every person joined with him in his attempt to appease the margrave, but the principal reason which induced him to yield to so many solicitations was in reality the fear he entertained of me. I had at last the pleasure of seeing harmony restored; and having nothing further to do at Anspach, I returned to Erlangen, from whence I set out for Ems. I went straight to Wertheim, where I embarked.

Our voyage was one of the most agreeable.

that could be: we had good company in our boat, we fared excellently, and our eyes were perpetually delighted with a succession of the most delightful landscapes.

We reached Ems after a passage of six days, very much fatigued and harassed by our last day's passage, and from not having slept the whole night through, which we passed in a small boat, as the large one could not enter the Lane which surrounds Ems. This is a very disagreeable place: it is a hollow, surrounded by a chain of rocks, where there is neither verdure nor trees to be seen. The House of Orange, where we lodged, was handsome and commodious.

We reposed ourselves for the first day after our arrival, but I saw company on the day following. The company of the place was very scanty and very tiresome. Madame de Harenberg, the wife of the King of England's Chamberlain, was the heroine of the bath. She was then at Ems with her husband and Colonel Diffenbrok her lover. This lady was short, ugly, disagreeable, and full of both affectation and coquetry. We amused ourselves with her ridiculous behaviour: the margrave affected to be enamoured of her, and said soft things to her. The idiot swallowed the bait at once, and quite charmed with having made so noble a conquest,

she wished to begin the romance where it generally terminates: the margrave however was of a different opinion. The whole hatred of this creature then fell on me: she endeavoured to decry me every where, in the belief that I had thrown obstacles in the way of her love: fortunately, however, she was so well known that nothing she could say made any impression.

I entered on my course, from which I felt some advantage in the beginning. The good company which arrived served to render our residence more agreeable: besides several ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, Pilnitz also made his appearance there, of whom I have already spoken. He had changed his religion since his return to Berlin, and become protestant again. He told me many particulars respecting Berlin. He stood very well in the king's favour, and was informed of almost every affair. He told me that I was the object of general pity, and that the king abused the margrave beyond all bounds in consequence of the reports which he had heard of the margrave's keeping mistresses and treating me ill. Never did calumny invent a falser report. I begged Pilnitz to undeceive the king instantly, which he did on his return.

We sometimes went out to walk, or rather to

tread in the mud. This noble promenade consisted of an alley of limes, planted along the river. It was impossible to be solitary there: the hogs, accompanied by other domestic animals, kept us faithful company, so that we were obliged to belabour them with blows to get rid of them at every turn we made. I bathed in the mildest bath, which I was even very careful to temper, having been informed by every body, even by the physician at Ems, if I did not take that precaution the hot baths might do me a good deal of injury. Our physician Zeitz, however, took it into his head, that if I did not take those which were in the house of Darmstadt I should not become pregnant. He came to me with a proposal to make the experiment: I went there, but I could not remain in a minute, as the baths were so hot that the room was full of steam. I went out instantly. This physician applied to M. de Voit to persuade me to return, and though the other physician protested against it, and loudly said that I should perish in the attempt, Zeitz still persisted in his opinion, and told several persons, as I afterwards learned from them, that if I only bore a prince, he cared very little for the consequences; for if I should die it would be only one woman out of the way. My good genius prevented me from fol-

lowing his advice; and notwithstanding every entreaty, I would never consent to gratify their wishes.

After my course was over, I went to Coblentz, to see the procession of the Corpus Christi festival. I was shown the castle and the town, neither of which are deserving of description.

On our return to Ems, I found a gentleman belonging to the Landgrave of Darmstadt, who invited the margrave and myself in the most obliging manner in the world to visit Munichbrouk, a country-house belonging to the landgrave on the Frankfort road. The margrave, charmed with such an occasion of forming an acquaintance with a prince renowned for his politeness and magnificence, resolved to go, and persuaded me to accompany him.

We took our departure next day, and saw in passing, Schlangenbat and Schwalbach, where there was a great deal of company. We slept at Wisbaden. Although greatly fatigued, I rose next day at five o'clock to go to Munichbrouk. I found two originals in my anti-chamber: they were two Counts de Reuss, one of whom did nothing else but hop about the room, telling me that he was chamberlain of the emperor, and reigning count of the empire. "I am quite rejoiced to hear this, sir," said I, "and if the

the emperor has many chamberlains possessed of your merit, his court must infallibly be admirably composed." "O! undoubtedly," said he. The other told me that he resided on one of his estates near Frankfort, "Because," said he, "the forage is excellent there, and all my pleasure consists in keeping fine horses:" on which he began to give me the genealogy of all the inhabitants of his stable, and to enumerate their merits---a very agreeable sort of conversation without doubt. I took coach to get rid of my two counts, with whose hopping and horses I had become heartily tired, and arrived after an insupportable heat and dust at Munichbrouk.

The landgrave assisted me in alighting from the coach, and without saying a single word set me down in the midst of the court, that he might pay his respects to the margrave: he then ushered me into the house, where I found his daughter, the Princess Maximiliana of Hesse Cassel, and the hereditary prince his son. I began to enter into conversation with them. The landgrave did not answer a single word: his daughter set up a horse laugh, and his son continued bowing. On their father leaving us, they began to discourse, but on subjects quite new for me, being of the most obscene nature, and handled most grossly. I stared at this behavi-

our, quite embarrassed how to act, having never before been present at a similar entertainment. The company was very unsuitable to my taste. The Princess de Hesse was a second Madame de Berry: she had been very pretty, but wine and debauchery had so much ruined her complexion, that she was quite bloated: and her neck, which she took care to keep uncovered as much as possible, was full of the most disgusting blotches; her loose manners and impudent air by no means belied her sentiments, and sufficiently unveiled her character.

We sat down at last to table, and notwithstanding all my politeness towards the landgrave, I could not draw a single word from him. An unlooked-for incident at last gave me the pleasure of hearing the sound of his voice. Munichbrouk is merely a hunting residence, consisting of several small detached pavilions. Each of the pavilions contains a little hall, and three small rooms on each side. These rooms were all furnished with damask of different colours, laced with gold and silver. As we were at table, the Princess Maximiliana all of a sudden burst out into loud exclamations of "*O my God! O my God!*" I was terrified, believing that she had been seized with one of the gloomy fits with which they told me she was tormented

frequently in the course of every day; but she called out immediately to me that miracles were performing, and that she had never seen any thing so extraordinary as what was then before her eyes. I thought she had become mad; but when I saw the margrave smile with an air of mystery, my apprehensions quitted me. This great miracle and extraordinary affair was nothing more than this, that the tapestry of damask had been in a moment taken down, which disclosed another of linen beneath, painted in oil colours. On this occasion the langrave said to me: "Your royal highness perceives that this place is enchanted." These are the only words I heard him utter. I applauded very much this piece of insipidity, for, as the proverb says, 'we must howl in the company of wolves.'

After our wearisome repast was over, I was compelled to dance whether I would or not. I was extremely fatigued, and there were only three ladies of us, and we danced a number of allemandes. I was quite worn out. I kept entreating the margrave so long, that we at last took our departure at seven o'clock. I must be allowed here to give the portraits of the margrave and his son.

The margrave was above eighty when I saw him; but, excepting his grey hairs, I should not

have taken him for more than fifty. He was much disfigured, and his appearance rendered very disgusting from a cancer in his mouth. It was said that he was very witty in his youth, but that his great age had deprived him of it: he had been very gallant, but his gallantry then consisted of the most excessive debauchery. The unfortunate mania which took possession of him of endeavouring to discover the philosopher's stone had completely ruined his dominions, which were in a state of the utmost disorder. He lived on very bad terms with his son, whom he treated like a child, though forty-nine years of age. The son was possessed of no inconsiderable degree of wit and politeness, but the bad company which he kept had effected a most unfortunate change in him for the worse.

I arrived very late at Frankfort, where we were received in ceremony, with a triple discharge of cannon, and complimented by the magistrates and burgomasters of the town. As I was not in the very best state of health, I stopt a day there, during which I saw every thing deserving to be seen; namely, the Roëmer, which is the hall where the emperors dine on the day of their coronation. Adjoining to this hall there are several chambers where the golden bull is kept which was shewn me: from thence I went to

the great church, where the emperors are crowned. I saw the place where the electors meet on the day of the election; but as these details may be seen in several books, I shall pass them over in silence.

I set out at five in the evening of the next day from Frankfort, resolved to travel during the night for the purpose of avoiding the great heats. Although I felt myself in a very uncomfortable state, I wished to see in passing the country house of Prince William of Hesse. It is a large and spacious castle, but quite plain within, and unfurnished. The situation is beautiful, looking over a very fine garden on the banks of the Main, on the opposite bank of which the landscape is delightful.

During the journey, my illness increased, and terminated, at length, in a species of dysentery. We were overtaken by a storm, with a heavy rain, accompanied by a most violent cold. The roads were frightful, and we were in the mountains of Spessart, in the midst of woods without the smallest habitation.

I arrived, at length, half dead, at nine in the morning, at a small village named Eselsbach, where I was dragged out of the coach, and put to bed quite insensible. The physician, who had arrived long before me, found me very ill.

I had a strong fever, and he pronounced my situation very dangerous. It was resolved therefore that we should remain there the whole of that and the following day, and if my illness did not diminish, to endeavour afterwards to remove me to some place farther on, as that where we then were was so wretched that it was impossible to make a longer stay in it; but finding myself somewhat recovered, we set out on the third day for Wirzburg, where we were invited by the bishop.

We were received there with all the honours imaginable. The garrison was drawn up under arms along the streets, and the guns were thrice fired. The jolting of the coach had weakened me so much that I was obliged to be put to bed. I dragged myself, however, infirm as I was, to see the interior of the castle, which may pass for one of the finest in Germany. The staircase is superb, and the apartments are all vast; but I found the decoration of the rooms detestable.

We set out again at eight o'clock in the evening. My illness ceased, but I was attacked by another still more dangerous, being unable to speak from excessive pain in my chest.

I arrived next day at Erlangen, having travelled the whole night through. I staid there for fifteen days, at the end of which I was free from danger, but a great weakness still continued,

and my health remained in a very dangerous state.

I found on my return to Bareith Mademoiselle de Bodenbrouk, first maid of honour to the queen, the same person who had been the cause of so much chagrin to me during my stay at Berlin. She was on her way to the baths of Carlsbad. I wished to shew myself generous towards her, and treated her with the utmost politeness. My behaviour affected her, and brought her to herself. She detailed to me all that was passing at Berlin, and informed me that the queen was still displeased with me, and took every occasion to speak ill of me; that the person who was the sole cause of this was my sister of Brunswick, who was perpetually stirring her up against me, and gave her every possible unfavourable account of Bareith, such as my displaying so much contempt for the jewels given me by the queen, that I had sold them, and taken others in their place, to get rid of every thing about me belonging to Berlin; that she was not contented with holding such language to the queen, but also endeavoured in every possible way to prepossess my brother against me, who was quite changed with respect to me, and had no hesitation in saying that my sister of Brunswick was his greatest favourite; that my brother was

quite altered; that every body began to hate him, and in short that every one pitied me, and wished to see me recover my former ascendancy over him. I justified myself from the calumnies of my sister by shewing Bondenbrouk all the jewels which I had received from the queen, and which were well known to her. She promised also to make a vigorous defence for me to that princess, and to speak in my favour to my brother. She set out from Bareith loaded with presents and good offices.

The year 1738 was nearly fatal to me. The margrave was seized with a sudden illness, which did not appear dangerous at first, consisting only of a gross defluxion from the head; but a sort of apoplectic attack gave me great alarm for his life. It was a sort of relaxation of the nerves in the exterior parts of the body. His mouth remains somewhat contracted from it, and he has also an irritation in the left eye, which is almost always running; but he is nowise disfigured. What were my sufferings during all the time of his illness! my anguish and uneasiness were inexpressible. His recovery restored me to life.

My health, however, did not improve, but declined daily. I was again seized with a slow fever, and at last, after three months illness, the

physician pronounced my disease incurable. Madame de Sonsfeld and the margrave gave an account of my state to the queen and my brother; and the result of the medical consultations at Berlin was that I might yet recover. My brother's affection for me was in some measure revived at this time. He informed me that there was a very able physician at Stettin, who had contributed a great deal to the king's recovery from his dropsy; and that I ought to request the king to send him to me. The letter which he wrote me on this occasion was most affectionate. My resolution was already taken. I judged my escape hopeless: I beheld death with firmness, and felt no dread at its approaches. My only subject of uneasiness was the grief which my death would occasion to the margrave; but I endeavoured to quiet myself on that score by reflecting on the number of husbands, who, after an appearance of the most violent distraction, contrived to console themselves in the long-run. The urgent entreaties of my brother and the margrave induced me, at length, to follow my brother's advice; and I wrote a very affecting letter to the king respecting my distressed situation. I said, that seeing myself on the brink of the grave, I asked his pardon for all the uneasiness which I had involuntarily occasioned him. I

asked his blessing: I assured him of the warm affection I bore him; and I concluded with requesting Supperville the physician, more for the sake of tranquillising the margrave, and having nothing to reproach myself with, than for any hope of his saving my life. The king answered me in the most obliging terms, and the physician arrived at the Hermitage, where I had been for fifteen days.

I expected to see a pedant, one of those worthy pillars of the faculty who can only speak to you in Latin, and whose diffuse and wearisome discourses contribute to the speedy death of their patients; but I was very agreeably disappointed. I saw a good looking man make his entrance, who accosted me in a manner which at once shewed his acquaintance with the best company, and who had not the smallest air of his profession about him. He pronounced me very dangerously ill; but he endeavoured to encourage me, assuring me that he would bring about my recovery. I must here give a portrait of him.

Supperville is of French origin, and pretends to be descended from a good family. I will enter into no description of his genealogy. Every Frenchman settled in a foreign country is as noble as the king, although sometimes his

grandfather may have been a *maitre d'hotel* or *laquais* at Paris. But waving this subject, many a one is not noble who deserves to be so, and the gentleman in question had talents which might have procured him an ample fortune, if his unbounded ambition had not prevented it. Supperville went through the usual studies which constitute a liberal education at Leyden and Utrecht, his father being settled at the Hague. After a course of civil law, he was appointed secretary to an ambassador sent to France. Love made him a physician. He conceived a violent passion for a young girl of great fortune, and feeling himself unable to live separate from her, he was obliged to embrace a profession for which he felt the greatest repugnance. He returned to the universities. His application to the study of medicine and anatomy soon rendered him celebrated. The king engaged him in his services as first physician of all Pomerania, where he soon extended his renown. He has a great deal of wit, prodigious reading, and may be considered as a man of genius; his conversation is easy and agreeable; he can support equally well serious and light conversation; but his jealous and imperious disposition obscures his talents and good qualities, and lays him open to weaknesses which he will with difficulty be

able to get the better of. It may easily be conceived from the portrait which I have now drawn of him that he soon received our approbation.

The care and labour bestowed by me upon the court had operated a great change on it for the better: we had expelled from it a certain coarseness and barbarism which reigned there in the beginning, but it was still far from what we could have wished. All those who composed it were persons of narrow views: the most of them had never been out of the streets of Ba-reith, and had no idea of the rest of the world. Reading and science were utterly unknown to them, and their whole conversation turned on hunting, economy, or stories of the old court. M. de Voit, who had hitherto been some resource, was seized with a fit of bigotry; thus we had no other resource but what we drew from ourselves, and Supperville therefore was a great acquisition to us: he became attached to us, and we felt similarly disposed towards him. He undertook my cure, and six weeks freed me from my slow fever; but he did not entirely restore me, and my condition made him think that without the greatest care and the strictest regimen I should suffer a relapse.

This induced him to say one day to me, that

seeing my health was by no means re-established, and that his presence was necessary for my perfect recovery, he would make an offer of his services to me, and wished nothing more than to consecrate his life to the margrave and myself. I was pleased with his offer, but I saw many obstacles to it. He was, I may say, the favourite of my brother and all his *coteries*, and I was aware that he would not suffer me to deprive him of a man for whom he had an affection. I at once stated this objection to him. "I durst not, madam," said he, "before this speak to you openheartedly on this subject; but now that I have the honour of knowing your royal highness, I feel that I can speak to you without reservation, and without running the risk of rendering myself unhappy. My resolution was already taken before coming here to quit the king's service: my design was to settle in Holland, but the pleasure which I experience in this court, and the attachment which I have contracted for your royal highness, have made me change my opinion. I cannot deny that I stand very well in the mind of the prince-royal: but I have had, madam, but too much time to study him. He is a prince of great genius, but he possesses a bad heart and a bad disposition: he is dissembling, suspicious, infatuated with self-

love, ungrateful, and viciously inclined. I am much deceived if he do not become a greater miser than the king his father is at present: he has no religion, and has fashioned a morality after his own inclination: all his study is to hoodwink the public, but notwithstanding his dissimulation, many people have found out his character. He distinguishes me at present for the sake of extending his knowledge, one of his greatest passions being the study of the sciences. When he shall have extracted from me those of which he is ignorant, he will neglect me as he has done many others; and for that reason I have thought proper to take my measures beforehand."

For a very long time I had been discontented with my brother, and I knew that I possessed that feeling in common with many persons who had been also attached to him, but I should never have imagined that his character had undergone such a change. I disputed long with Supperville on the subject. The margrave, who then entered, took the part of Supperville, and told me that he had long entertained the same opinion of my brother. He accepted with joy the proposition of Supperville, and we both wrote to the king to demand him. I also applied to my brother for that purpose, and Supperville took his leave, charged with all those letters.

It will be thought strange, perhaps, that I should have entered on so long a discussion on this subject, but it is necessary for the sequel of these Memoirs, in which Superville acts a great part.

The king answered me very obligingly, with an assurance that Superville should be at my service whenever I wished him, but that he could not relinquish him altogether to us, as he could not dispense with him himself: the queen, however, wrote to me, that she would not despair of yet persuading the king, especially if I could procure him any tall men.

La Grumkow was married towards the end of this year to a certain M. de Beist, a very worthy man of good family, but very indifferently provided with the goods of fortune, his whole wealth consisting of four children by a former marriage. I was glad to get rid of her. I took two ladies in her place, Mademoiselle Albertina de Marwitz, and Mademoiselle de Hutten, of a very great and illustrious family.

The year 1739 will be more interesting than the one I have now described. Superville returned in the spring: a new course which he tried on me completed my recovery, or at least put me out of danger: but I must now enter on another discussion.

I have already said that the margrave had taken Ellerot as his secretary, a man well acquainted with the affairs of the country, and possessed of great probity and talents. He found all the departments, and especially the finances, in great disorder. M. de Dobenek was entrusted with the detail of the finances, but it was soon perceived, that notwithstanding all his gasconades, he knew nothing at all of the subject. Ellerot was appointed to supply his place, and the margrave in addition entrusted him with the management of his privy purse. The attention of this man was solely directed to finding out resources, without caring for remedying disorders, or re-establishing credit. Several considerable revived claims, which he contrived to bring into the coffers contributed to support the expences. To do him justice, he rendered important services to the margrave both in his internal and external affairs: this inspired the margrave with such a confidence in him, that he created him confidential referendary (*referendaire intime*).

The ministry cried out loudly against this innovation, which was clipping their wings, and depriving them of part of their authority. They drew up a memorial on the subject to the margrave, conceived in very harsh and very disrespectful terms. The margrave, quite disgusted

with their behaviour, answered them in a very strong manner. Ellerot was suspected to be the author of it, and became thereby the subject of general animosity. There was a universal murmur: it was loudly said that persons in office were not paid, and that two or three quarters were due to them.

I was first informed of this accusation, and from the enquiries which I made secretly I found that it was the truth. I sent for Ellerot, and spoke to him. I told him even that I had been assured the chamber of finances was in the worst way possible, and that the privy-purse of the margrave was greatly in debt. He maintained the contrary, and assured me that the whole originated in the calumnies of his enemies, who spread these reports of him to make him miserable. I would not inform the margrave, but he had already been told of it.

Supperville, to whom he spoke on the subject, recommended a man of probity and merit in Berlin as a director of the chamber, of the name of Hartmann, whom I had frequently heard of. The same person had been already proposed to the margrave, by M. de Montmartin, a young man, whose studies had been carried on under the margrave's directions; and whom he had appointed a counsellor of state. The mar-

grave, without any hesitation, sent for M. Hartmann, and conferred the situation on him. Ellerot did not appear chagrined : he had long wished to get rid of the charge : however, his conduct afterwards showed that he was very much mortified at being superseded.

On Hartmann's arrival, there was a general outcry against Ellerot : high and low came with complaints to me against him, and begged me to inform the margrave of his rapine and his bad management. I knew the way of the world too well to interfere in any such matters. The man was in favour, and consequently was an object of envy and jealousy; and as I believed him innocent, I carefully abstained from infusing suspicions of him into the margrave's mind, which might have injured him. But Hartmann confirmed the public rumour, and assured the margrave that his finances were in the most terrible confusion, and that a half year's arrear was due to all the persons in his service. One of the receivers of the chamber gave the margrave a secret memoir, in which he informed him that he was deceived and betrayed by Ellerot, that he sold offices to the highest bidder, and sucked the blood of the people.

The margrave spoke to me on this subject. He was in the most terrible agitation, not know-

ing what to think of the matter. After long deliberation, and ruminating on all the circumstances of the past, we concluded that he was not altogether innocent. However, not to precipitate any thing, the margrave sent for the secret informer, and ordered him to commit to writing all the points of his accusation. He was assured by this man that he could support what he had advanced, and would convict Ellerot.

Ellerot had many friends. He learned the nocturnal conferences which the margrave had been holding : and having his creatures, he soon knew the mischief which was preparing for him. Next day he spoke to the margrave on the subject, protested his innocence, and begged him to order the most rigorous examination into his conduct. What more could be demanded ? The margrave granted his request, and four commissioners were named to investigate the matter. Ellerot was absolved, and completely triumphed over all his accusers. His antagonist was sent to the fortress. We shall see the conclusion of this matter next year.

During this time my health was recovering but feebly. My disease changed into a sort of consumption. Supperville concluded a change of air was necessary for me, as the air of the whole

state of Bareith was very heavy and unwholesome in winter. For that purpose he proposed to the margrave to pass a year at Montpelier: he demonstrated to him that this journey would have two advantages, the recovery of my health, and the restoration of his affairs, as the states of the country would have to furnish us with the expence of the journey. The margrave, charmed with the proposition, communicated it to me immediately. It may be easily believed that I consented; but I foresaw great difficulties from the quarter of Berlin, well knowing that it would be highly disapproved of by the king and queen; besides, I did not expect to pass my time very agreeably at Montpelier. The late margrave, my father-in-law, had spent several years there, and given me a very unfavourable account of it. I made another proposal to the margrave and Supperville, of which they highly approved, which was to pass a few months at Montpelier, then to repair to Antibes, and embark for Italy, which we should travel over; but as we rightly judged that this last journey would experience more obstacles than the former, we all resolved that it should be kept secret.

We judged, however, that it would be advisable for the margrave to pay a visit to Berlin, to

smooth down the opposition and chagrin we had to fear from that quarter. The margrave eagerly acceded to my wished. Fifteen days afterwards he suddenly departed with eight tall men, whom he selected from his guards to offer to the king. His journey and arrival were kept so secret that no one knew of them.

The king was on the parade, occupied in seeing the troops file off. The joy he felt on beholding the margrave was incredible. He instantly alighted from his horse and embraced him, repeatedly calling him *his dear son*. The tears rushed into his eyes, and he frequently said to him, "*My God! what a pleasure I feel! I perceive now that you have some friendship for me.*" He then conducted him to the queen, who also received him very well. But the margrave rose still higher in favour next day when he presented his eight men to the king. My brother received him also very kindly, but advised him by no means to ask any favour from the king, which would spoil every thing. I am persuaded that the king would have granted him any thing, and I have been frequently told so since; but the margrave did not wish to fall out with my brother, and he did not therefore take advantage of the king's favourable disposition towards him. He not only approved of our journey to Montpelier, but he

also gave up Supperville to us. The king made him also a present of a gold snuff-box, enriched with brilliants, with his portrait, worth four thousand crowns. I received also several presents from the queen and him; and the margrave returned to Bareith at the end of six weeks, quite satisfied with his reception at Berlin.

Our obstacles being all removed in that quarter, we began to experience others on the part of our dominions. There was a universal murmur: they were quite unwilling to let us go. My governess, whose great age prevented her from accompanying us, made a great noise. At last, after four weeks endeavours, we surmounted all these difficulties, and the day of our departure was fixed for the twentieth of August.

My poor Merman began to grow very ailing. Whatever pain I might feel at separating myself so long from these two faithful companions of my misfortunes, I chose rather to deprive myself of their company than to expose their health, and even perhaps their existence. The husband of Merman was my man of business. He was a restless, violent, and passionate man, who wished to pass for my favourite, and who was enraged at not being so. He kept his poor wife so much under the rod, that she durst not speak before him, and dreaded him worse than death. This

man, greatly piqued because I did not take him along with me, resolved to be revenged. He asked my permission to pass the time of my absence at Berlin, which I granted. At last I took leave, not without shedding many tears, of my governess and La Merman, and I entered the coach with the margrave, Mademoiselle de Soursfeld, and La Marwitz, the only two ladies who accompanied me. Superville had been seized with a fever two days before, and waited for us at Erlangen.

We had scarcely gone a mile, when the margrave became unwell. He was seized with a violent head-ache, accompanied with vomiting. We concluded that this would not be attended with any troublesome consequences, and that it was nothing more than a head-ache, but we were quite deceived in our conjectures. He experienced afterwards an excessive degree of heat, which obliged us to stay a few hours at Troubach, a very bad and miserable place. I proposed to him to return to Bareith, but he always refused, and with great efforts took coach again for Streitberg, where he proposed to pass the night. His fever and heat continued the whole night through, but as he wished absolutely to reach Erlangen, we got him there with the greatest difficulty.

We learned on our arrival that Supperville was extremely ill. All the circumstances of his illness resembled those of the margrave's, for whom I was under the most inexpressible alarm. The fever continued always the same, and I dreaded with reason lest it should end in a burning one. Notwithstanding my cadaverous state, I quitted him neither night nor day, and suffered a thousand times more than him. His situation did not improve; he had been already for five days in a continual state of heat, without experiencing the least relief from medicine. My agitation at length induced me to visit Supperville, who lodged in the castle. I told him that the margrave was in such a dangerous situation that I thought there was no time to lose, and that he ought to be bled. Supperville said to me that the same thought had occurred to him, and that he would put it immediately into execution whenever the fever began to diminish. I returned to the margrave, where I found our second physician, of the name of Wagner. I told him the consultation which I had had with Supperville, and his opinion. He told me that he would never subscribe to bleeding the margrave in his then state, and that it was the last remedy to use when the illness should become hopeless. I told him that I could not de-

cide the question, and that he should argue the point with Supperville. He came and told me a moment afterwards that Supperville was of his opinion, and that nothing ought to be done hastily.

I remained till three in the morning with the margrave. At last, worn out with fatigue, I threw myself down on a bed in a small closet, from which I could see and hear every thing that passed. My fatigue enabled me to sleep. I had slept for about four hours, when I was disturbed, and on opening my eyes I discovered Wagner before my bed. The head of Medusa could not have appeared more frightful to me, for I believed the margrave was dying. "Don't be alarmed, madam," said he; "the margrave continues as he was; but we have at length resolved to bleed him, and I thought it necessary to inform you, that you might be present."

I rose more dead than alive : a criminal led to the gallows could not suffer more than I then endured : a universal trembling seized all my members, and my limbs sunk under me. I concluded the margrave at the last extremity, as they were then availing themselves of the last resource for his life. I dragged myself into his chamber. Here was another frightful spectacle : the whole council was assembled : the people

flocked into the streets, throwing out imprecations against Supperville and the bleeding, and endeavouring to prevent the surgeons from entering.

Supperville was as ill himself as the margrave: he would not, however, allow himself to be disconcerted, and to put a stop to all the disorder and clamour, he ordered himself to be bled first. This calmed the minds of the people somewhat.

During all this time I was stretched on a sofa, in a state impossible to describe. I was quite insensible, with my eyes fixed and motionless. At last the bleeding began. But what was my joy at seeing that as the blood flowed the margrave's countenance began to assume a totally different appearance. In fact, the increase of fever which was expected did not follow, and he was out of danger by the evening.

However, in proportion as his health recovered, I perceived he grew extremely cold in his behaviour towards me. He quarrelled with every thing I did. In return he made a thousand advances to La Marwitz, asking after her every moment when she left the room. He implicitly followed whatever she ordered respecting the taking care of himself, and behaved harshly to me when I gave him the same advice. This made me quite distracted.

My body immediately suffered from the chagrin of my mind. I was seized with what I had yet been a stranger to, namely, a sort of convulsions, accompanied with violent head-aches. My governess came to visit me. She did all in her power to ease me ; but nobody could divine the cause of my illness.

I have already said that the closet where I slept looked into the margrave's chamber. I heard him every morning, as he awoke, ask for the ladies. When I was well enough to go to him, he seldom or never spoke to me, and always sent for La Marwitz. I was seized with a dreadful jealousy. Every person perceived my chagrin, but I took care to keep the cause of it concealed. I knew La Marwitz : she was virtuous, and attached to me. I was persuaded if she discovered the cause of my melancholy she would quit the court ; but I could not forgive the margrave's change of behaviour towards me. I had been quite blind for a year to a thousand little circumstances which now flashed on me.

The margrave was still resolved on the journey to Italy ; but my desire for it was altogether gone. I foresaw that the facilities which he would have of seeing La Marwitz more frequently would only increase his love. Besides, my mind was too dejected to allow me to take

pleasure in any thing while my situation should continue so miserable.

A new chagrin completely overwhelmed me. I have already spoken of Merman's discontent. On his arrival at Berlin he waited on the king with the margrave's letters and mine. The king enquired after my health. Merman took that opportunity of saying all he could against me, and assured the king that I had never been unwell. He dwelt a great deal on the enormous expences which I had put the margrave to, and which ruined his dominions. In short, he succeeded so well in exciting the king, that he breathed nothing but rage against me. However, Merman durst not inform his wife of the calumnies he had been uttering. He knew her rectitude too well not to be aware that she would disapprove of his unworthy behaviour.

His wife next day visited the queen, who interrogated her strongly on all the subjects of accusation which Merman had repeated against me. She gave the lie to the whole of them, and offered to take her oath that the whole was nothing but falsehood.

However, the queen wrote me a letter in very strong terms, signifying on the part of the king that he would never pardon me if I persisted in my journey to Montpelier.

I received at the same time a letter from my brother, informing me of all the circumstances now mentioned, and of the rage in which the king was against me. "But I advise you, nevertheless," he added, "to continue your journey. When we once adopt a resolution we ought to carry it through. After all, the king can do nothing in the business, and it would be weak in you to allow yourself to be intimidated, and to become a sacrifice to the false reports of such a man as Merman. I advise you to get rid of that rascal, to turn him off, and shew firmness on the occasion. No doubt his wife is attached to you, and does not deserve to be so harshly treated; but you must get over that consideration for the sake of getting rid of a scoundrel."

I was very sensibly afflicted by these two letters. Of Merman I was very fond, and I foresaw that the margrave would be of my brother's opinion. The governess, who had been for some days at Erlangen, extricated me from my embarrassment. She took the part of my poor Merman, and obtained her husband's pardon from the margrave. This complication of vexatious circumstances completely ruined my health.

Madame de Sonsfeld frequently surprised me

when in tears. By means of her incessant intreaties, she extorted from me a confession that my grief was altogether occasioned by the change in the margrave's behaviour to me. La Marwitz perceived that my mind had experienced an alteration ; but she had attributed it wholly to my disease. The governess could not refrain from telling her my chagrin. La Marwitz guessed I imagined herself the cause of it. The distress which it occasioned to her threw her into a fever. However, Madame de Sonsfeld remarked that my complaints were not without foundation, and that the margrave was very cold in his behaviour towards me. She spoke in strong terms to him. Her discourse had its effect. The margrave excused himself to me, and attributed his behaviour to his fever. He became again in reality as affectionate as ever. On the other hand, I behaved so kindly to La Marwitz, that I completely removed from her mind the idea of the truth which had entered it.

The margrave being completely recovered, we returned to Bareith, as the season was too far advanced to think of pursuing our journey to Italy, for it was then the month of November. We were received with every possible demonstration of joy.

Merman and his wife arrived soon afterwards

from Berlin. I received my good nurse very well, but her husband very unfavourably, who was much surprised to find me so well informed of his conduct. I pardoned him for the sake of his wife, and since that time he has continued to be very much attached to me, and given me no reason to be dissatisfied with him.

I had acted contrary to the positive advice of my brother, both with respect to my Italian journey and to Merman. He felt it keenly, and wrote me a very sharp letter on the subject. I endeavoured to pacify him with good reasons. I wrote him that the health of the margrave, still precarious, had thrown obstacles in the way of our journey, and that my heart was too good to allow me to render unhappy any person whom I loved who was attached to me, and to whom I was under obligations. With these reasons, however, my brother was by no means satisfied, and I remarked a great deal of coolness in his letter.

I received at that time information from Berlin that the king was in a very infirm state, and that his physicians dreaded his disease was the commencement of a dropsy. This disease kept increasing during the year 1740.

We began the year with the carnival. We had balls, with disguises, at the castle, where

none but the nobility were admitted. I say *disguises*, because no masks were worn. The clergy had acquired a great ascendancy during the reign of the late margrave: there was even a whole sect of them known by the name of *Pietists*, at the head of whom was the margrave's chaplain. This man, who concealed under the mask of devotion a boundless ambition, and a spirit of intrigue, indisposed the inhabitants towards us. He was in great credit at the Court of Denmark; and we were obliged to be on good terms with him for reasons of policy. We were obliged therefore to accustom the people gradually to pleasure, to avoid giving occasion for any outcry against us, by which we might be injured.

I lived in a state of perfect tranquillity. The margrave behaved very well towards me, and I enjoyed all the blessings of friendship with La Marwitz.

The king's illness went on increasing. The queen informed me that the physicians pronounced that his life would not last more than four weeks longer. My sister of Brunswick had gone herself to Berlin, to inquire after his health; and I thought that I was bound in duty to do the same. I spoke to the margrave on the subject. He was averse to it, but he

allowed me to consult with the governess. Through her excess of friendship for me, she dissuaded me from the journey: she feared that the distress which I would suffer from the king's death, which was said to be so near, might again derange my health; however, as I persisted in my intention, she advised me to write to my brother. I was not of that opinion, but as I saw that the margrave would only allow me on that condition to go to Berlin, I was obliged to yield to their views; I therefore dispatched a messenger to my brother, with a statement of my ideas on the subject. The following is what I wrote to him:

“ I have hitherto flattered myself that the king's illness was not remediless, but from the last letter which I received from the queen I perceive clearly enough that he cannot live much longer. I have therefore resolved, with your approbation, to repair without delay to Berlin, to pay my dutiful respects once more to my dying father, and to complete my reconciliation with him. I own to you that I should be in despair were he to die before my seeing him, and that he could have to accuse me of failing in my duty towards him, and neglecting him; however, I wish to do nothing without your approbation. I beg, therefore, that you

will return me a speedy answer by a messenger, containing your opinion on the subject," &c.

I received the following answer :

“ The receipt of your letter surprised me extremely. What the devil do you wish to come to this dungeon for? You will be received worse than a dog; and for your fine sentiments nobody will thank you. Stay where you are at Ba-reith, in the enjoyment of pleasure and repose, and do not think of coming to this hell, where there is nothing but sighing and suffering, and every body is ill-used. The queen, as well as myself, disapproves of your fine project; however, it depends on you whether you will venture yourself or not. Adieu, my dear sister: I shall inform you by every post of the king's health: he cannot recover, but the physicians say that he may yet live for some time. I am. &c.”

This letter put an end to all my projects, as I durst no longer flatter myself with obtaining the margrave's permission to go to Berlin. The king's disease grew worse and worse; at length he terminated his reign and his life on the 31st of May. It may not be improper for me to say something on this occasion respecting his singular and heroic death.

He had been very ill the whole night through. At seven in the morning he caused himself to

be drawn in his rolling chair to the apartment of the queen, who was still asleep, not believing him so dangerously ill. “*Rise,*” said he to her, “*I have but a few hours to live: I wish to have, at least, the satisfaction of dying in your arms.*” He ordered himself next to be conveyed to my brother’s, of whom he took a tender leave, with the exception of the prince-royal, whom he ordered to follow him into his apartment. On getting there he sent for the two prime ministers, the Prince of Anholt, and all the generals and colonels who were then at Potsdam. After a short discourse, in which he thanked them for their past services, and exhorted them to preserve towards the prince-royal, as his only heir, the same fidelity which they had always shown to him, he went through the ceremony of abdication, and gave over all his authority to his son, to whom he delivered a very noble exhortation on the duties of princes towards their subjects, and recommended particularly to him the care of the army, and especially of the generals and officers present; then turning towards the Prince of Anholt, “*You are the oldest of my generals,*” said he, “*and you deserve to have my best horse.*” He ordered it immediately to be brought, and seeing the prince-royal affected, “*It is the lot of man,*” he said: “*we must all pay the tribute to*

nature.” But apprehensive lest his firmness might be shaken by the tears and lamentations of those who were present, he signified to them to withdraw, and gave orders to all his servants to wear a new livery which he had caused to be made for them, and that his regiment should wear a new uniform. The queen then entered: she had scarcely been a quarter of an hour in the room when the king fainted away: he was immediately put to bed, when by means of the efforts employed he was restored to his senses. Looking around him, and seeing the servants in their new dresses; “*Vanity of vanities,*” said he, “*all is vanity.*” Then addressing his first physician, he asked him if his end was near: the physician having informed him that he had still a half hour to live, he asked for a looking-glass, and having looked at himself in it, he smiled and said, “*I am very much changed, I shall cut a very ugly appearance when dying.*” He reiterated his question to the physicians, and on their telling him that a quarter of an hour had elapsed, and that his pulse was ascending, “*So much the better,*” he answered; “*I shall soon return to nothing.*” They then wished that two clergymen might enter to pray with him, but he told them that he knew all that they had to say, and that they might therefore withdraw. He became

weaker and weaker, and at last expired at mid-day. The new king immediately conducted the queen to her apartment, where many tears were shed, but whether false or sincere I know not.

The king dispatched a courier to me with an account of the melancholy news. I ought to have expected it, but yet I was touched to the bottom of my heart. I am incapable of dissimulation, and though I have since experienced losses which I have felt more sensibly, I can safely say that the present affected me very violently.

I continued to act towards the king as usual: I wrote every post to him, and always with open heart. Six weeks passed before I received any answer: the first letter which I received from him at the end of that time was only signed by the king, and conceived in very cold terms. He began his reign by making a tour through Pomerania and Prussia: he still continued silent towards me. I knew not what to think of it, and my friendship for him would not permit me to live without distress at so marked an indifference.

After a lapse of three months, I was at last secretly informed from Berlin that the king had set out *incognito* to surpriseme at the Hermitage,

where I then resided. I was on the point of dying with joy at the receipt of this piece of news: it caused such a revolution in me, that I was for two days quite indisposed.

He arrived at length, bringing along with him my second brother, whom I shall hereafter merely call my brother, to distinguish him from the others. I opened my heart without reserve during this interview. I had so many things to tell the king, that I could tell him nothing. I at once remarked that his caresses to me were affected, which somewhat surprised me; however, I did not reflect much on the subject. I found my brother so altered and tall that I hardly knew him. As I shall afterwards have occasion to speak of him, I shall not here interrupt the thread of my narrative.

The king conversed all this day on indifferent subjects: there was an air of embarrassment spread over his countenance which quite disconcerted me. M. Algarotti, a native of Italy, and one of the most ingenious men of the age, was in his suite, and furnished matter for conversation. What astonished me most was the extreme eagerness of the king to see my sister of Anspach: he had never loved her, and she in return entertained the same indifference towards him. More than twenty messengers were dis-

patched for her, all with the most kind invitations to visit him at the Hermitage. She arrived at last next day with the margrave her husband: the king could no longer observe any moderation towards her, and distinguished her in public more than me. He made me a present of a small bouquet of brilliants, worth two hundred crowns, and a fan containing a watch within it. He presented the margrave my husband with a golden snuff-box, with his portrait studded with brilliants. My sister received a present of nearly the same value as my own, and the margrave of Anspach a snuff-box of white flint, split in the middle, which he immediately afterwards gave to one of his pages.

M. de Munichou, whom I believe I have already mentioned, had been appointed the king's aid-de-camp, and followed him every where. This young booby was in good favour at court, and more distinguished than all those who had been attached or had rendered services to the king when prince-royal. He had been in love with La Marwitz during the time he staid at Bareith, flattering himself he should obtain her in marriage from the king and General Marwitz, if I should not oppose him.

We arrived at Berlin by the end of October. My younger brother, followed by the princes of the blood, and the whole court, received us at the bottom of the steps. I was conducted to my apartment, where I found the reigning queen, my sisters, and the princesses. I was grieved to learn that my brother was then suffering from a Tertian fever. He sent to inform me that as the fit was then on him, he could not see me; but that he believed he should have that satisfaction next day. After the first civilities had passed, I repaired to the queen, my mother's. I was struck with the sorrowful and melancholy air which prevailed there. I found every thing in deep mourning for the king, my father. This renewed the memory of his loss. Nature has her rights; and I can truly say I have never been more affected in my life than on this occasion. My interview with the queen was most touching. We had a family supper in the evening, when I had time to renew my acquaintance with my brothers and sisters, whom I had not seen for eight years.

I saw the king next day. He appeared meagre and disfigured. His reception of me was constrained. When we love we are clear-sighted; and it is the same thing with friendship. I was not the dupe of his false demonstrations, and I

easily remarked that he no longer cared for me. He requested me to follow him to a country-house called Reinsberg, where he was to go for a change of air; the reigning queen was to accompany him. But, said he, as the house was very small, he could not lodge me immediately; but he would give orders to prepare an apartment for me, which, when finished, he would inform me of. But I shall not go into the minutiae of a journal.

As the court was in mourning, it had not a very brilliant appearance. I went every day to my mother, who saw very few people, and who was plunged in a deep chagrin. She had always flattered herself with having a great ascendancy over the mind of the king, my brother, and having some share in the government, when he ascended the throne; but the king, jealous of his authority, would not allow her to have any interference with business, which appeared very extraordinary to her.

I remained fifteen days at Berlin after the king's departure. I was loaded with honours and distinctions, well calculated to dazzle any other person than myself; but when we make our happiness to consist in a reciprocity of sentiment with the persons we love, we become careless of tinsel, and the smallest mark of friendship makes a greater impression than all these

vain demonstrations. I perceived, during this short stay, that a general discontent prevailed throughout the country, and that the king had lost in a great measure the love of his subjects. He was openly spoken of in disrespectful terms. Some complained of the want of attention he had shewn towards those who had been attached to him when prince-royal; others of his avarice, which they said surpassed that of the late king; others of his transports of rage; and others, again, of his suspicion, his distrust, his haughtiness, and his dissimulation. Several circumstances witnessed by me induced me to give credit to these reports. I would have informed him of them, if my brother, of Prussia, and the reigning queen, had not dissuaded me. I shall give the explanation of all this hereafter. I request all those who may one day read these Memoirs to suspend their judgment of the character of this great prince till I develop it. The news of the Emperor Charles the Sixth's death, which happened at that time, became the subject of the conversation of the court, and the speculations of politicians.

I arrived at Reinsberg two days after. The king had taken quinquina, and his fever had left him. He still, however, kept his room, and never went out during our stay at Reinsberg. It was surprising how, overpowered with illness

as he was, he could get through all his business; for nothing was done which did not pass through his hands. The little time which was left him he spent in the company of scientific or witty men, such as Voltaire, Maupertuis, Algarotti, and Jordan. He had a concert in the evening, where, notwithstanding his illness, he played two or three concertos on the flute, and, without flattery, it may be said he surpasses the greatest masters on this instrument. The time after supper was dedicated to poetry, for which he possesses high talents and the greatest facility. These things were merely recreations for him: the object which occupied his mind was the conquest of Silesia. The arrangements were made with so much secrecy and policy, that the envoy from Vienna, at Berlin, was not informed of his design, till it was ready to be put into execution.

The residence of Reinsberg was only rendered agreeable to me by the good company there. I saw the king but seldom; and when I did see him, I had no great reason to be satisfied with our interviews. For the most part they passed in embarrassing compliments, or cutting raileries, on the disordered state of the margrave's finances. He even frequently ridiculed him and the princes of the empire, which hurt my feelings very

much. I got also innocently enough involved in a very ticklish adventure, which might have led to very serious consequences. As it has hitherto remained unknown, and the honour of certain persons to whom I owe great consideration is concerned in it, I shall pass it under silence, and proceed to another subject, which may, perhaps, appear not very interesting, but which has so great a connexion with the sequel of my history that I cannot omit it.

The only persons of all my court who had accompanied me to Reinsberg were Madame de Sonsfeld and the elder La Marwitz. La Marwitz had contracted an intimate friendship with the Mademoiselles de Tetow, two ladies in attendance on the queen, and with Madame de Morian. The two former were both very amiable; but they were the objects of hatred of every body, on account of their merciless satire and scandal. Madame de Morian, though on the decline, had still a fresh appearance. With the most polished manners, she possessed a great deal of wit and vivacity; she had got rid of every prejudice; her conduct was the subject of scandal, and without the smallest regard to decency, she indulged at the queen's table in such licentious discourse, that the men were put to the blush. This precious company, well cal-

culated to ruin the mind of any young person, succeeded in effecting nearly a complete change in La Marwitz. The satire, licentious behaviour, the double-entendres, and even the follies of La Morian and the Tetows, were imitated by La Marwitz, who sedulously fashioned herself after these models. Her behaviour gave currency to the rumours which were circulated concerning her. Several wags rallied her on her amours with the margrave; others pointed out to her the credit she had with him: 'nothing else was spoken of to her. She was wronged, however: she lodged and slept with her aunt, and never saw the margrave, except in her presence or mine. We cannot change character all at once. Young persons, all of a sudden introduced into the world, may be carried down the current of pleasure, but can only forget themselves by degrees. She was quite distracted at all these rumours, which I informed her of. The principles of virtue which I had instilled into her then appeared in all their lustre. She wished to quit the court, to return to her father. I employed all my rhetoric to prevent her, and I at length succeeded in tranquillizing her. I even put a stop to these reports, by the testimony I bore to her virtue. However, this suggested

ideas to her that she would never otherwise have had, as will be afterwards seen.

In the beginning of December we returned to Berlin. The troubles which the death of the emperor would give rise to obliged the margrave to return to his dominions; and I remained at Berlin, to avoid displeasing the king. As the court had given over mourning, our pleasures began with the carnival, which is always renewed, at Berlin, in the months of December and January. The king, on Mondays, gave a masked ball at the castle; on the Tuesday, there was a public concert; and on the Wednesdays and Fridays, a masked ball in the city, at the houses of the principal persons at court. These pleasures were of short duration. The king's great project was disclosed on a sudden. The troops began to march towards Silesia, and the king went to put himself at the head of his army. I was sincerely affected at taking leave of him. The undertaking in which he was embarked was very precarious, and might be of very serious consequences to him if he should not succeed in it. These reflections made our separation the more painful. I should have awaited his return (as he calculated on returning in six weeks, for a few days merely), if the adventure

which I have passed under silence, and which always alarmed me, and my impatience to see the margrave again, had permitted me to make a longer stay.

I set out for Bareith on the 12th of January, 1741, where I arrived in the course of eleven days. The roads were so completely destroyed by the rains, that I could only travel at the rate of four miles a day. La Marwitz and her sister were full of nothing the whole way but lamentations on their departure from Berlin. "We must, at last," said La Marwitz, "return to this devil of a hole, to be wearied to death, after tasting the pleasures of Berlin." I was several times displeased at this kind of language; but as I considered it that of a person carried away by the vivacity of youth, and the love of pleasure, I excused it; and, in fact, I thought that she soon after came to herself, and renounced her rashness. I resumed my usual mode of life at Bareith. We had many strangers, who rendered the carnival brilliant.

I received great satisfaction on hearing the account of the taking of Glogow. The king, after besieging this place, took it by assault, and by that means became master of the key of Silesia.

The Count de Cobentzel, envoy from the

Queen of Hungary, arrived shortly afterwards at our court. He brought me a letter from the last empress dowager, in which she urged me fervently to employ all the influence I had with my brother to move him to peace. The queen, her daughter, was destitute of money and troops, and attacked at an unsuspected moment. Notwithstanding her distressing situation, she had absolutely refused to listen to the propositions of the king, my brother, and resolved to suffer the last extremities, rather than cede the four duchies, the subject of the dispute. All the efforts of the Count de Cobentzel, and the advantageous conditions proposed to me, were unable to induce me to interfere in this affair. I did not even deem it proper to write to the king on the subject; and the more so, as no explanation had been given respecting the conditions of the accommodation.

In the mean time, fortune continued to favour the king. The battle of Molwitz was fought on the 10th of April, which redounded, in every possible way, to his glory. This victory proved, in a signal manner, his genius for the military art, as nothing could be more masterly than that first attempt. General Marwitz was severely wounded in this action, by a shot in the thigh. The siege and capture of Neisse were the fruits

of this victory, which terminated in a peace. The joy which I felt at this fortunate news it is impossible to express. I displayed it in all manner of entertainments.

The whole of this year was passed by me in great tranquillity; and it was the last in the course of which I have enjoyed any thing like repose. I am now entering on a new career, more rough and difficult than any thing which has yet occurred in the course of these Memoirs. I pique myself on stating the truth. I do not wish to excuse the faults I have committed. I have sinned perhaps against the rules of policy, but I cannot reproach myself with any want of rectitude.

When General Marwitz found that he did not recover from his wound, he entreated me so earnestly to allow his eldest daughter to remain for some time with him, that I could not refuse him. He was then Governor of Breslaw, and commander of all the troops in Silesia. His daughter appeared to me glad enough to go.

Two days before her departure she came to me in tears, and in the greatest despair. Astonished at this, I asked the cause of it. She could scarcely answer me: her sighs for a long time would not allow her to speak; at last she said to me: "I see, madam, that I must quit

you. The reports in circulation at Berlin against my reputation have only received too much belief. Nothing in the world is dearer to me than my honour; the attack made on it affects me more than my death would do. I can only undeceive the world in withdrawing from the court. I feel I shall be one of the most unfortunate persons in existence. I cannot live at a distance from you, and to add to my misfortunes, my father means me to marry; I shall therefore be a double victim from the despair occasioned by seeing you no more, and that of marrying a man who may perhaps be hateful to me."

I was keenly affected by her tears and her sentiments: I endeavoured to combat them, and in the course of two hours, I not only quieted her, but I obtained her word that she would remain in my service. I leave the reader to judge, if after such a conversation I could entertain any suspicion of this girl. Could I imagine that she was to deceive me cruelly in robbing me of all that was dear to me, in bereaving me of my husband's heart. She was almost constantly beside me, and her conduct was so guarded with him, that if I had any suspicions, she would have destroyed them. Her sister became very much attached to me after her de-

parture. Her lively, gay, and witty disposition amused me. The margrave toyed a good deal with her, but that gave me no uneasiness. He behaved so well towards me, and shewed such a warmth of affection for me, that I had the completest reliance on his fidelity. I was pleased to see him happy, and being an enemy to constraint, I did not wish that he should feel any.

About that period the Elector of Bavaria was chosen King of the Romans. He passed *incognito* through Bareith, in the beginning of the year 1742. He was on his way to Manheim, to be present at the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Sulzbach, and from thence to be crowned emperor at Frankfort. He passed in such a poor equipage, that we should not have known of it, if he had not sent one of his cavaliers with excuses to us for his not being able to stop. The margrave took horse and immediately followed him. He made such speed that he overtook him at three miles from Bareith. The emperor alighted from his carriage, embraced him, and shewed him every politeness which he could desire. After half an hour's interview they separated, very well satisfied with one another.

We learnt shortly afterwards that the corona-

tion was fixed for the 31st of January. We were seized with a curiosity to see it. - We resolved to go completely *incognito* to Frankfort, to be there the night before the ceremony, and to depart the day after. M. de Berghover, the envoy from our court, was intrusted with the care of regulating our journey, and facilitating our *incognito*. We calculated on setting off in eight days, when the Duchess of Wirtemberg took into her head to come to Bareith. This princess, very famous in an unfavourable sense, was going to Berlin to see her sons, whose education had been entrusted to the king. The young princes had passed through our place shortly before her. The duke fell in love with my daughter, who was only nine years old (he was but fourteen). We were much amused with his little gallantries. The duchess appeared fresh for her years: her features are beautiful, but her complexion is gone, and extremely yellow: her tongue goes so incessantly, that every person is reduced to silence in her company: her voice is so loud and shrill, that it becomes excessively painful to the ear: she possesses wit, and expresses herself well: her manners are engaging towards those whom she wishes to conciliate, and excessively free with the men. Her mode of thinking and acting forms a curious

contrast of haughtiness and meanness. Her gallantry had been so much the object of general censure, that her visit was by no means agreeable to me. She was regent during the minority of her son. I shall not stop to develope her character: she will appear more than once on the scene in the course of these Memoirs.

I return to La Marwitz. She had asked from me a prolongation of the permission which I had granted her; but when she learned from my letters that we were going to Frankfort, she went off hastily, and returned at a time when I by no means expected her, the same day on which the duchess arrived. Her first appearance displeased me. She entered with an air of arrogance, and never ceased talking of the great property of her father, of the approbation bestowed upon her at Berlin, and the attention paid her, concluding every subject with exclamations on the sacrifice she made in returning to me. When I love I feel keenly, I have more than once said. Perhaps I exact too much of my friends, but I only require the same delicacy from them which I pique myself on possessing. In this behaviour there was none. This vain ostentation displeased me. There is a way of saying things. We can easily shew our friends what we do for them, to show them the extent

of our attachment towards them : this is the way to secure their gratitude ; but to boast of a service or a kindness deprives it of its value. For myself, I am satisfied when I shew any kindness to my friends ; and though all their lives they should be ignorant of what they owed me, the joy I should feel on having been useful to them would be sufficient recompense. As I never possessed the talent of having a command over myself, La Marwitz at once remarked a coolness in my answers. She was so piqued at this, that she complained to the margrave. He treated me for some days with coldness. Anxious to know the cause of it, I tormented him till he informed me. “ You have a bad heart,” said he, “ to use those persons who love you unkindly. La Marwitz is quite in despair at the idea that you have no longer any regard for her : she has complained to me bitterly on the subject.” I was equally surprised and grieved to learn that this girl had applied to the margrave on the subject of our petty differences ; but when I saw he was prepossessed against me, I dissembled, and told him I still continued the same. On this assurance she called upon me again, renewed her protestations, made a great display of sentiment, and succeeded in convincing me once more that her fault proceeded

only from precipitation, and from too great an inclination for pleasure. Peace was therefore again concluded.

We were to have set out on the 27th of January for Frankfort, when Pelnitz, famous for his memoirs and extravagant behaviour, arrived. He informed us, that the Austrians having entered Bavaria, the king, by way of diversion, in favour of his allies, had made an excursion into Bohemia. The duchess, who was on her way to Berlin, to have a conference with the king, was very much disconcerted on hearing this piece of news, and resolved to remain with us till the return of that prince. We were therefore obliged to have recourse to all manner of intrigues to get rid of her. She quitted us on the 28th of January for Berlin, and we set out the same day.

The badness of the roads, and the floods, obliged us to travel night and day. We reached, at length, the gates of Frankfort, on the 30th of January. M. de Berghover, to whom we had sent notice, came out to meet us a few gun-shots from the town. He informed me that the coronation was deferred to the 12th of February; that every body knew of our arrival; and that it would be impossible for us to remain *incognito*, if we entered the town that evening. I was

fatigued to death, and labouring under a severe cold. After much reflection, it was fixed that we should retrace our steps, and pass that night at a small village a mile distance from Frankfort.

We were joined by M. de Berghoyer next day. He had endeavoured to deceive people with respect to us, and to arrange things in such a manner, that we might visit him privately in the evening, for the purpose of witnessing the entrance of the emperor, which was to take place next morning. The two La Marwitzes were alone, along with me; my dear grand-mistress staid at Bareith, from an inability to undergo the fatigue. My wardrobe was very ill supplied. My ladies and myself were each possessed of only a dark *andrienne*, contrived by me for the purpose of diminishing our baggage. The Margraves du Châtelet and Schoenburg had only their uniforms, and by way of disguise, they had blackened their eye-brows, to be in unison with the large black perukes with which they were encumbered. I almost died of laughter at seeing them decked out in this manner.

In this admirable trim we alighted at Berghoyer's, who could scarcely recognise us. I had ordered my habit to be stuffed, which gave me a respectable bulk, and we all wore hoods,

which completely covered our faces. He thought us so completely disguised, that he proposed our going to the French theatre. We acceded to this, as may very well be imagined, and stuck ourselves in the second row of boxes.

The entrance of the emperor next day was most superb; but I will not attempt its description. I had, the same evening, the pleasure of being at a masked ball, where, being known by no person, I received a great deal of entertainment in tormenting the masks.

The fear of being at last discovered obliged us to procure lodgings, next day, in a small summer house, belonging to a private individual, where we remained several days. The cold in it was quite insupportable; and I suffered penance for the small degree of pleasure I had enjoyed at Frankfort, from the chagrin occasioned me by the La Marwitzes. They grew, both of them, insufferably arrogant, laying claim to such a degree of attendance and distinctions as belonged only to myself. The elder had infected the mind of the younger with her pride; and the younger, in return, had communicated to the other her taste for satire and scandal. They pried into the faults and weak sides of every body, and took a pleasure in tearing the whole court to pieces, not even sparing people

in their own presence. As they had a great deal of wit, the margrave took much pleasure in their comments. The whole day long he was in their room, and he did not perceive that he was frequently the subject of their raillery. While I was present, they said not a word to me, not even answering my questions, and kept laughing in a corner of the room, like mad people. I could not long bear this foolish conduct. I broke out, at length, and told them, very plainly, that they displeased me, endeavouring, at the same time, to bring them back to their duty, by every sort of persuasion. The younger was silent; but her sister assumed a lofty port, and began to reproach me. Would to God that I had quarrelled with her in earnest! I should have spared myself many an uneasy day. The fear, however, of coming to an open rupture, by assuming the tone of authority, and the hope of reforming her, induced me to dissemble my feelings for the present.

My return to Frankfort served to divert me, and banish the melancholy reflections which this scene had given rise to. There we had plays and balls in abundance. One evening, when I was at the theatre, my hood was discomposed. Prince George of Cassel turning his eyes by accident that way recognised me. He told the

Prince of Orange, who was beside him. They immediately proceeded towards my box, and entered it when I least expected them. It was no longer time to dissemble : neither of the two princes would quit us. They conducted me to my coach, and begged the margrave to permit them to sup with us, which he could not refuse. From that day they never staid from the house. The Prince of Orange is so well known, that it would be superfluous to describe him. I was charmed with his wit and conversation. The Princess of England, his wife, was at Cassel. He promised to persuade her to come to Frankfort, to become acquainted with me; but he could not realise his promise, as the shortness of his stay would not allow him to expose the princess to the fatigue of the journey.

The following day we went to a ball. The Elector of Cologne well knew what had passed the preceding evening at the theatre, and set spies upon us. On my making my appearance, he came to solicit me to dance, telling me that I was known to him. He conversed for a long time with me, and introduced the Princess Clemence of Bavaria, his niece, two princesses of Sulzbach, and Prince Theodore, his brother. They afterwards looked out for the margrave, to whom they showed every sort of politeness.

Our *incognito* was no longer of any avail; and our equipage prevented us from appearing in public. We were therefore obliged to return to our retreat: and after a long consultation, a courier was dispatched to Berlin for such articles as we were in want of.

I was waiting for the margrave to lead me to my coach, when I saw him enter with a lady, who, he told me, was Madame de Belisle, the wife of the French ambassador. I had carefully avoided her, concluding she would be laying claim to pretensions which I should not be disposed to allow her. I took my resolution instantaneously, and received her as I did other ladies who visited me. Her visit was not long: her conversation was confined to the king's praise. I found Madame de Belisle very different from the idea I had been led to form of her. She knew the world; but she had the air of a waiting-maid, and her manners were mean and undignified.

I passed two or three days in my garden, where the Prince of Orange kept us faithful company; and I did not return to town till the eve of the coronation. I will not attempt a description of it. The poor emperor did not enjoy the satisfaction which such a ceremony was naturally calculated to inspire. He was dying of

the gout and gravel, and could scarcely support himself. His affairs were then in the most difficult situation. The affair of Lintz had obliged the French to retreat, which had given the Austrians an opportunity of making an irruption into Bavaria, where they committed the most dreadful ravages. His hopes were somewhat revived by the entrance of my brother into Bohemia: but as he was without troops, and without money, he was obliged, from policy, to humour the princes of the empire, to obtain assistance from them. His circumstances induced him to distinguish the envoys of the princes at the election, and especially M. de Berghover and M. de Montmartin, the ministers of the margrave. Those two gentlemen, both of very obscure origin, were highly flattered with the attention of the emperor to them. The Marshal de Belisle completely gained them over to that prince by the gold with which he dazzled their eyes. They drew up the plan of a treaty, which they presented to the margrave on the day of our return to Frankfort. The margrave spoke to me on the subject, and assured me the conditions were so advantageous for him, that he had not hesitated to give it his approbation. In fact, this treaty was concluded before our departure, though it could not be ratified till the

margrave had fulfilled the first conditions of it. Berghover contrived to preserve it so carefully that the margrave could not give it to me to read. But to return to my subject.

The affair already mentioned obliged us to stay for some time at Frankfort. When our equipage arrived, I received company under the name of the Countess de Reuss, and our house was never empty. M. de Belisle himself visited us several times.

I know not what induced M. de Berghover to represent to the margrave that it would be unbecoming in him to let me depart without seeing the empress. This man possessed great abilities, and had acquired a great ascendancy over the margrave by the service he has performed, and the pretended advantages he had procured for him by the treaty. The margrave gave him permission to propose this interview to me, leaving me, however, at liberty to accede to or refuse it as I chose. I downrightly refused it. By etiquette, princes are precluded from seeing one another. As king's daughter I was unwilling to hazard the honour of my family ; and as there was no example of a king's daughter and an empress being united in the same person, I knew not in what manner to regulate my behaviour upon the occasion.

Berghover flew into a passion, and did not even treat me with becoming respect. He exclaimed that I offended the margrave by disobligng the empress ; that women were good for nothing but to set people by the ears ; and that I would have done much better to stay at Bareith th an come to Frankfort to trouble the margrave's affairs, and disarrange his projects through my pride. His vociferation did not induce me to change my resolution ; I only laughed at him. But to tranquillise him, I told him on what conditions I would agree to his proposal. I demanded in the first place to be received at the foot of the stairs by the empress's court ; secondly, that she would meet me before the door of her bed-chamber ; and thirdly, that I should be allowed an elbow chair. He promised that he would speak to the grand-mistress of his princess, and do whatever he could to satisfy me. I incurred no risk by these proposi^ues. In obtaining my request I maintained my character, and a refusal would have been a sufficient excuse to me for not paying the visit.

In the mean time I had an opportunity of consulting M. M. de Schwerin and Klingraeve, the king's ministers, the latter of whom was in high credit at the imperial court. They were both of opinion that I was not intitled to the easy chair,

but that nevertheless they would insist upon obtaining it for me, or find some expedient for the regulation of the ceremonial. They represented to me, that the king, being closely united with the house of Bavaria, and the margrave having every reason to gratify it, my conduct would on that account be excusable ; that I should wait on the empress under the name of Countess, while supposed an *incognito*, and that under that title I could not exact the honours to which I was entitled as Princess Royal of Prussia and Margravine of Brandenburg.

If I had had time to write to the king, I should have submitted myself to his decision ; but though I might send a courier to him, I could not possibly have his answer. I was therefore obliged to yield. The whole day was taken up with disputes on the articles demanded by me. The two first were granted. All that could be obtained in lieu of the third was, that the empress would only take a very small elbow chair, and that I should have a seat with a large back to it.

I saw this princess next day. I own that if I had been in her place I should have invented all the etiquette and ceremony imaginable to prevent me from being obliged to appear. The empress is of a most diminutive height, and so

corpulent, that she has the appearance of a ball : she is as ugly as it is possible to be, and destitute of every thing like air or gracefulness. Her mind corresponds with her figure : she is bigotted to excess, and passes nights and days in her chapel. The old and the ugly fall generally to God's share. She received me trembling, and with so disconcerted an air, that she was unable to say a word to me. We seated ourselves. After preserving silence for some time, I began the conversation in French. She answered in her Austrian jargon that she did not understand that language very well, and would request me to speak in German to her. Our conversation was very short. The Austrian and the Low Saxon dialects are so different, that without being accustomed to both, it is impossible to make oneself understood. This was exactly our case. We should have furnished ample food for laughter to any third person who heard our nonsensical conversation, in which neither of us could make out more than a word now and then, from which we had to conjecture the meaning of the rest. This princess was such a slave to etiquette, that she would have believed she had committed the crime of high treason in conversing with one in a foreign language, for she knew French. The emperor

was to have been present at this visit, but he had been taken so ill, that his life was even believed in danger. This prince was deserving of a better fate. He was mild, humane, affable, and possessed the talent of gaining every heart. It may be said of him---*Some shine in the second rank who would be eclipsed in the first.* His ambition was greater than his genius. He had wit, but wit alone will not constitute a great man. He was in a situation beyond his sphere, and he was unfortunate enough to have no person near him calculated to supply the deficiency of the talents which he ought to have possessed.

I remained for some days longer at Frankfort, during which my whole time was spent in entertainments and pleasure.

I returned at last to Bareith, towards the end of February. M. de Montaulieu, grand-master of the Duchess of Wirtemberg, and minister of the duke, came there shortly after our arrival. He brought letters to the margrave and myself from the king, the queen my mother, and the duchess, containing proposals of marriage between my daughter and the young Duke of Wirtemberg. This alliance being very advantageous, and approved of by the king and queen, who planned it, we accepted the proposals, de-

ferring the conclusion of the conditions till the return of the duchess, who was then at Berlin.

Our return gave occasion to the solicitations of the Imperial Court for the fulfilment of the first stipulations of the treaty. M. de Berghover having sent this prodigy of policy to the margrave, he read it to me. The following are the contents :

The margrave engaged himself, first, to raise a regiment of infantry of eight hundred men, for the emperor's service : secondly, to render him all the service in his power in the Circle : thirdly, to endeavour to induce the said circle to declare in his favour, when circumstances would permit. The emperor, on the other hand, gave the command of the regiment to the margrave, with the nomination of all the officers down to the captains, twenty-five florins per man, including arms and uniforms for the regiment. Secondly, he remitted the *jus appellandi*. Thirdly, he ceded to him the small town of Retwitz, with its territory. This last article could only be executed when the emperor became master of Bohemia, as Retwitz belonged to that kingdom. Fourthly, he promised to employ his good offices towards the having him elected marshal and commandant of the troops of the Circle of Franconia.

The margrave had been very dissipated at Frankfort. His pleasures and revels, added to the great confidence he reposed in Berghover, had prevented him from maturely weighing the consequences of this treaty. He considered it; however, in a different point of view at the second reading, when the conditions appeared to him as chimerical as they had before appeared advantageous. The sum allowed for the raising of the regiment was so small, that he would be subjected to an evident loss. The *jus appellandi* was only an advantage for an unjust prince: an equitable prince possesses always that right, never affording an occasion to his subjects to appeal to the emperor's tribunal. His generalship of the Circle was merely a vain title, with no other prerogative but that of commanding the troops in time of war. The town of Retwitz was of consequence: the gift was uncertain, and the advantage not more solid than any of the others above mentioned. These motives, with several others, induced the margrave to break off the treaty.

I received several very severe letters from the king my brother on the subject. He complained with great bitterness to me of my negotiation having commenced without his knowledge. I suppressed the first letters, and took no notice of

this subject in my answers. He told me at last that I ought to speak to the margrave from him on the subject, and demonstrate to him how unbecoming it was to enter into treaties without consulting him as the head of the house. The margrave was enraged. He dictated the answer to me, which was in the strongest terms. From that moment war was declared. I received only harsh letters from the king, and I learned even that he spoke of me in a very offensive manner, and held me up to public ridicule. I was keenly touched with this behaviour. However, I dissembled my chagrin, and continued to act towards him as I had done formerly.

The Duchess of Wirtemberg arrived at this time. The agreement respecting the marriage of our children had been regulated at Berlin. It was agreed that it should only take place with the consent of the two parties, on their attaining the years of discretion.

This alliance connected me with the duchess against my inclination,---I say against my inclination, for she was generally spoken of as another *Lais*. The duchess possesses a certain jargon, and a turn for trifling, which is amusing enough for some time, but becomes wearisome in the end: she gives herself always up to an immoderate gaiety. As her whole object is to

please, all her study centers in that pursuit: all sorts of enticements, infantine manners, tender glances, in short, every ingredient of coquetry, is resorted to. The elder and younger Marwitz took it into their heads that the manners of the princess were French, and that she was the model of fashionable behaviour. The elder, who then began to have a great ascendancy over the margrave's mind, prevailed upon him to effect a complete alteration in his court: he never quitted the duchess, and entered blindly into all her views. In the course of fifteen days every thing wore a new appearance: they began to fight, to throw table-linen at one another's heads, to run about like young colts, and, finally, to embrace one another in the course of certain very equivocal songs. So far from these being the manners of French ladies, if a Frenchman had seen them, I have not a doubt but he would have taken them at once for opera singers or actresses. I did what I could to oppose this torrent of disorderly behaviour; but all my efforts were fruitless. The governess railed, swore, and inveighed against the behaviour of her nieces, who only turned their backs upon her. How happy I was at that time! I was still the dupe of the Marwitzes, and had not even a suspicion of their intrigues. As the margrave continued to pay the

same attentions as usual, I slept tranquilly while they were plotting my ruin.

On the departure of the duchess, I entertained a hope that I should be able to bring things back to their old situation, but I soon perceived that the evil had taken too deep a root. La Marwitz, from what I have since observed, had then apparently formed her plan. This girl had an unbounded ambition: to satisfy this passion, she was obliged to plunge the margrave into dissipation (a fault to which he was naturally but too much inclined), that she might detach him from all application to business. It was necessary to deceive me also by communicating the principal affairs to me, and lulling me asleep by the confidence the margrave was to repose in me. She reserved, however, the distribution of offices and favours, and particularly of the finances, to herself. The reports in circulation at Berlin respecting her had induced her to reflect seriously on her situation, and the empire which she possessed over the margrave. The desire of displaying her great genius triumphed over every other consideration: she remarked his inclination for her, and she took advantage of it to govern him according to her inclination: she concluded, that by preserving my confidence, and avoiding all occasions calculated to fill me

with suspicion, she would succeed in hoodwinking me, and rendering her power so great, that when I came to discover the object of her endeavours, I should no longer be in a situation to thwart her; in short, her conduct and the margrave's were so guarded, that I did not in the least dream of the secret understanding between them.

Towards the end of July we went to Stoucard, where we had been invited by the Duchess of Wirtemberg. I will not enter into a detail of that court, which I found very slovenly, and full of ceremony and compliment.

THE END.

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